Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-053
Monday
19 March 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-053 19 March 1990

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Concerned Over EEC Anti-Iraq Action *[Tunis Radio]* 1
PLO's Qaddumi Refuses To Move League to Cairo *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 15 Mar]* 1
Egypt Cancels Cairo Palestinian Women's Seminar *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 15-16 Mar]* 1
PLO Seeks New Venue After League HQ Move *[Cairo AL-WAFD 16 Mar]* 2
League 'Condemns' U.S. Anti-Libya 'Campaign' *[JANA]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Congratulates Gorbachev on Election *[Sanaa VOP]* 2
DFLP Claims 'Infiltration' Responsibility *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
'Arafat Receives Swedish Government's Message *[Sanaa VOP]* 2
Abu-Sharif Meets With King Husayn in London *[WAKH]* 3
PLO's Al-Zibri on Israeli Crisis, Emigration *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 15 Mar]* 3
Fatah Central Committee Elects Two New Members *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 15 Mar]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Libya

People's Congresses To Hold 'Emergency' Meetings *[Tripoli TV]* 4
Editor Views Al-Rabitah Fire, Anti-Iraq Plan *[JANA]* 4
Further Reportage on 14 Mar Al-Rabitah Fire 4
'Sabotage' Caused 'Huge Fire' *[JANA]* 4
Kuwait's 'Regret' Reported *[JANA]* 5
Maltese Interior Minister Visits, Holds Talks *[JANA]* 5

Morocco

Statement on Expulsion of Amnesty Representatives *[MAP]* 5
Foreign Ministry Statement on Attacks in France *[MAP]* 6
Chadian President Pays Visit, Holds Talks 6
Received by King Hassan *[Rabat Radio]* 6
Concludes Visit, Leaves 16 Mar *[MAP]* 7

Sudan

'Anxiety' Over U.S. Allegations on Al-Rabitah *[SUNA]* 7
National Dialogue Conference With Libya *[JANA]* 7
Al-Bashir Addresses Red Sea Military Personnel *[Omdurman Radio]* 7
Calls For Clearing 'Outlaws' *[SUNA]* 8
Official Confirms New Talks With Rebels 'Shortly' *[SUNA]* 8
Foreign Ministry Issues Statement 15 Mar *[SUNA]* 9

Tunisia

Tunisia Denies Harboring Sabotage Group *[KUNA]* 9
OAU Secretary General Hosts News Conference *[Tunis Radio]* 9
Maghreb Television Channel To Commence 20 Mar *[Tunis Radio]* 10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Prime Minister Supports Iraq on Bazoft Execution *[KUNA]* 11

Kuwait

Paper Denounces Western 'Uproar' Over Bazoft *[KUNA]* 11

Saudi Arabia

Kingdom Condemns Plant Fire at al-Rabitah *[SPA]* 12
Iraq's Saddam Husayn Arrives on Visit 17 Mar *[Riyadh Radio]* 12
Holds Talks With Fahd *[SPA]* 12
'Fruitful' Cooperation Sought *[INA]* 12

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Receives Message From U.S. President *[Sanaa Radio]* 13

IRAQ

Further Reportage Follows Bazoft 'Spy' Execution 14
Papers Denounce British 'Interference' *[INA]* 14
'Masses' Protest British Position *[Baghdad Radio]* 15
NPPF Cables Support to Saddam *[INA]* 16
Messages to Thatcher Condemn UK Stance *[INA]* 17
Saddam Returns From Two-Day Saudi Arabia Visit *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
Ministry Denounces U.S. 'Threats' to Libya *[INA]* 17
Paper Urges UN Aid Release of Prisoners of War *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 10 Mar]* 17
Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Official Arrives *[INA]* 18

ISRAEL

Political Maneuvering, Reaction After Breakup 19
Peres Sees Coalition of 70 *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 19
Alignment Not in Government *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Peres on Alternative Government *[Jerusalem TV]* 20
Levi 'To Exploit' Vacuum *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Shamir on Coalition's Downfall *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Shamir Still Leads Likud *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Shamir Urged To Resign *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Arens Supports Shamir *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
No Likud Demand Against Shamir *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Sharon, Likud Support Shamir *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Peretz Leaves SHAS *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Alignment Recommends Peres *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Likud Recommends Shamir *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Likud Ministers Meet *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Further on Peretz Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
SHAS for Likud Leadership *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
POST on Peace 'Setback' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 18 Mar]* 27
CRM Recommends Peres *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Alignment Appeals Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Constraints Group on Likud Team *[Jerusalem TV]* 28
2 More Groups Support Peres *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Reportage on Former President Carter's Visit 28
Peres Comments on Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Confers With Shamir *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Levi on Talks Participation *[GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE]* 28

Update on Incidents in Territories 18 Mar *[THE JERUSALEM POST 19 Mar, etc.]* 29

LEBANON

AL-NAHAR Publishes Islamic Jihad Statement *[16 Mar]* 30
Al-Huss Wants Al-Khazin To 'Leave' Cabinet *[RFL]* 31
Al-Huss Leaves Hospital Following Operation *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Hizballah Source Comments on Amal Aggression *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 31
Hizballah Issues Statement on Iqlim al-Tuffah *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 31
Birri Supports Cease-Fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah *[Beirut Radio]* 32
Hizballah Responds to Nabih Birri's Proposal *[Beirut Radio]* 32
'Awn Denies Deadline Set for Mediation Committee *[VOM]* 32
Al-Hirawi Cables Congratulations to Gorbachev *[Beirut Radio]* 32
Ibrahimi, French Envoy Ala Arrive in Beirut *[Beirut Radio]* 32
Ibrahimi Meets President *[Beirut Radio]* 33
ICRC Oversees Transport of Injured Christians *[RFL]* 33
Cease-Fire 'Violations' Reported in East Beirut *[RFL]* 33
Limited Gunfire Exchange Reported in East Area *[RFL]* 33
Seven Reported Dead From Shelling of Township *[RFL]* 33

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives Letter From Mikhail Gorbachev *[Damascus Radio]* 34
Israel's Government Crisis Called 'Sinister Game' *[Damascus Radio]* 34
Jewish Settlements Seen as Israeli Plot *[TISHRIN 7 Mar]* 34
Al-Asad Receives Visiting Moroccan Minister *[SANA]* 35
UAE Fund Lends $112 Million for Factories *[SANA]* 35
Jimmy Carter Leaves After Three-Day Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 35

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Congratulates Gorbachev on Election *[Kabul Radio]* 36
Paktin Meets With USSR Ambassador 15 Mar *[BAKHTAR]* 36
Najibullah Delivers Speech to Hazaras, Shiites *[Kabul Radio]* 36
PDPA Central Committee Convenes Plenum 18 Mar 39
Announces Expulsions *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Najibullah Gives Opening Speech *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Najibullah's Closing Address *[Kabul Radio]* 44
2,000 Troops Disarmed, 'Another Coup' Feared *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Hikmatyar Defends Decision To Support Tanay *[BBC]* 44
Rebels Urged To Resell Weapons to Government *[Tokyo KYODO]* 45
Radio Reports Military Situation in Provinces *[Kabul Radio]* 45
Fierce Fighting Reported in Khowst 17 Mar *[AFP]* 46
300 Reported Dead From Famine in Badghis *[Islamabad Radio]* 46
Mujahidin Reportedly Capture More Kabul Posts *[Islamabad Radio]* 46
Over 100 Defense Officials Reported Held *[Lahore THE NATION 18 Mar]* 46
Kabul's Overtures to Exiled King Reportedly Fail *[AFP]* 47

India

Further Reportage on Maldivian President's Visit 48
Gearing To Host SAARC Meeting *[AFP]* 48
Addresses Delhi News Conference *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Terms Kashmir Issue 'Political' *[Delhi TV]* 48
Departs 17 Mar *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Devi Lal Resigns From Central Cabinet of Ministers *[Delhi Radio]* 49
To Remain in Janata Dal *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Security Forces Seize Weapons in Jammu Sector *[Delhi Radio]* 49
BJP Block President, 2 Others Killed in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 49

Curfew Imposed on Gujarat Town After Clashes *[Delhi Radio]* 49

Iran

Besharati Predicts Hostages' Release by Jan 1991 *[IRNA]* 49
More on Possible Hostage Release *[AFP]* 50
Embassy in Paris Issues Statement on Hostages *[IRNA]* 50
Syrian Foreign Minister Al-Shar' Arrives *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Welcomed by Velayati *[IRNA]* 50
Discusses Relations, Regional Issues *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Majles Debates Budget Clauses on Rural Investment *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Further Debates on Budget, Arms *[Tehran TV]* 51
Libyan Envoy Assails U.S 'Propaganda Attacks' *[Tehran TV]* 52
JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Cited on Bazoft Execution *[IRNA]* 52
Papers Disagree Over Resumption of UK Ties *[IRNA]* 52
Islamic Groups' Call for 'Confrontation' Viewed *[Tehran International]* 53
Commentary on 'Arafat Support for Emigration *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 25 Feb]* 53
Yazdi Speaks to Reporters on Judiciary *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Musavi-Ardabili Prayers Sermon Discusses Ramadan *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Strategic Studies Research Council Formed *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Gas Pipeline Explodes in Tehran, Causes Fire *[IRNA]* 55
13 Killed, Many Injured *[IRNA]* 55
Turkey's Relations With Mideast Countries Viewed *[Tehran International]* 56
Commentary on Developments in Afghanistan, Asia *[Tehran Radio]* 56

Pakistan

President, Bhutto Send Messages to Gorbachev *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
'High-Powered' Iraqi Delegation Arrives 15 Mar *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Makes Arrival Statement *[Islamabad International]* 57
Iranian Armed Forces Chief Begins Visit 18 Mar *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
President Amends Ordinance Against Terrorism *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Kashmir Leader Assails India's Rejection of Talks *[Islamabad Radio]* 58

Sri Lanka

900 Tamils Flee Indian Refugee Camp; Search On *[AFP]* 58
AFP on Extent of Tamil Control of Republic 59

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Concerned Over EEC Anti-Iraq Action

LD1703013690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] In his office yesterday, Mr. Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, received Mr. Claudio Moreno, Italian ambassador to Tunis, in his capacity as representative of the EEC chairmanship, deputizing for Ireland which chairs the EEC. After the meeting, the Italian ambassador stated they discussed cooperation between the Arab League and the EEC in a bid to initiate a process of consultations on the Arab-European dialogue and the intifadah. It has been learned from a source close to the Arab League Secretariat that the secretary general conveyed to the representative of the European chairmanship the Arab League's concern over the possible EEC position against Arab League member country, Iraq, following measures taken in accordance with Iraqi laws and regulations against spying activities in accordance with the Vienna treaty.

PLO's Qaddumi Refuses To Move League to Cairo

JN1703120190 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 15 Mar 90 pp 1, 22

[By Raja Talab]

[Text] Political sources close to the Arab League General Secretariat have said the implementation of the decision to move Arab League Headquarters from Tunis to Cairo was delayed until the 94th Arab League Council session next September because Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of the current session and head of the PLO Political Department, refused to carry out the decision during his chairmanship.

The sources told AL-WATAN that Qaddumi angrily walked out of the final session of the session after the majority of delegates agreed to the transfer. He openly informed Arab foreign ministers that he would not allow a decision to move the headquarters back to Cairo to be adopted while he was still the chairman of the Arab League Council.

According to the sources, a breakthrough in the foreign ministers' discussion of this topic was made when the Gulf states displayed full accord, achieved after Saudi Arabia ended its hesitation and when Morocco and Libya reversed their position and accepted the transfer decision. The countries of the Arab Maghreb Union originally opposed the decision and demanded that it be discussed by the next Arab summit, because the decision to move the headquarters from Cairo to Tunis was made at an Arab summit.

The sources said that after the disagreements were settled, thanks to the mediation of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, [Kuwaiti] deputy prime minister and foreign minister, both the state of Palestine and Algeria continued to oppose the decision. All other Arab countries agreed to the decision without any reservations, including Syria which supported the decision from the beginning.

News agencies cited official Palestinian and Tunisian sources as saying that PLO Headquarters will remain in Tunis, and that reports on intentions to move PLO Headquarters to Cairo after the transfer of the Arab League Headquarters were unfounded. The sources added that there is no link between the decision to move Arab League Headquarters and the transfer of PLO Headquarters.

Egypt Cancels Cairo Palestinian Women's Seminar

JN1703150290 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 15-16 Mar 90 pp 1, 22

[From the AL-SIYASAH bureau in Cairo]

[Text] The Egyptian authorities have canceled a 3-day seminar on the present and future conditions of Palestinian women. The seminar was scheduled to begin yesterday at the National Democratic Party headquarters in Cairo under the patronage of Amal 'Uthman, Egypt's minister of social affairs, deputizing for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's wife.

Yesterday, the Egyptian authorities prevented a General Union of Palestinian Women [GUPW] delegation from entering Egypt. The delegation, comprising 13 women arriving from Bahrain, was refused entry into Egypt.

Fayha' 'Abd-al-Hadi, official in charge of the GUPW's cultural affairs in Cairo, told AL-SIYASAH that the delegation that was refused entry to Egypt comprised the most prominent members of the GUPW, who were to deliver most of the lectures and studies at the seminar. She added that the GUPW's branch in Cairo was informed that the Egyptian authorities had canceled the seminar in view of political circumstances, which were not revealed.

Yesterday morning, the Palestinian embassy in Cairo informed leaders of the GUPW's branch of the decision to postpone the seminar, without giving any reasons for doing so. However, it was later decided to cancel the seminar.

AL-SIYASAH's bureau in Cairo reported that the Egyptian measures followed statements made by certain Palestinian officials on the decision to move the Arab League Headquarters back to Cairo. These statements expressed reservations about the move and the Egyptian authorities considered them a negative factor to be added to recent attacks made by some Palestinian leaders against Egypt.

In a related development, official Palestinian and Tunisian sources confirmed that PLO Headquarters will remain in Tunis. They also said that reports that the

PLO Headquarters would move to Cairo following the Arab League Headquarters move were unfounded and that there was no connection between that decision and the PLO's.

PLO Headquarters were moved in the summer of 1982 from Beirut to Tunis following the sweeping Israeli attack against the Lebanese capital.

PLO Seeks New Venue After League HQ Move

JN1803182690 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Mar 90 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo have said that the PLO is currently looking for a new place to hold its meetings now that it has been decided to move the Arab League Headquarters back to Cairo. The sources say that the PLO has been holding its meetings in the Arab League Headquarters in Tunis and that the PLO's failure to approve the Arab foreign ministers' decision to move the league's headquarters to Cairo is attributed to Cairo's inability to host PLO meetings.

The sources noted that the provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty forbid Cairo or Tel Aviv from cooperating with a third party that follows a hostile policy toward either of them.

Other diplomatic sources report Arab displeasure because of the sudden chill in Egyptian-Palestinian ties. These sources said Egypt has repeatedly conveyed to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, through Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, Egypt's dissatisfaction with statements attributed to PLO officials in which they have expressed opposition to Egypt's policy on the Palestinian issue. 'Arafat promised to intervene to stop such statements and reemphasized his pride in President Husni Mubarak's role in supporting the Palestinian cause. The same sources noted that the Egyptian authorities have not told Palestinian officials in Cairo why Egypt canceled the Palestinian women's symposium, which was scheduled to convene at the National Democratic Party headquarters.

League 'Condemns' U.S. Anti-Libya 'Campaign'

LD1503215490 Tripoli JANA in English 0832 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, al-Rabie [March] 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Council of the League of Arab country condemns the hostile U.S. campaign against Great Jamahiriyah and denounced the extension of the U.S. economic embargo on the people of Great Jamahiriyah.

On a press release issued today in Tunis, the Council reaffirmed the solidarity of the Arab nation with Great Jamahiriyah towards this campaign.

It called upon the U.S. Administration to necessarily respect international charters and nations' sovereignty.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Congratulates Gorbachev on Election

JN1703170090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has congratulated Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on his election as president of the USSR. Brother Abu-'Ammar sent a cable to this effect yesterday. The following is the text of the cable:

On the occasion of your election as a president of the USSR, it pleases me to send you on behalf of the Palestinian people and my brothers the members of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my own name, heartfelt congratulations [words indistinct]. Your election reflects the confidence of the [words indistinct] and that of your people in you and your policies to develop the USSR toward economic progress and social prosperity. Your Excellency, we are confident that the current productive relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the USSR and the state of Palestine will witness further promotion, prosperity, and continuous coordination in the interest of our peoples, and to achieve a just peace in the region and [word indistinct]

I take this opportunity to express to Your Excellency, to your esteemed government, and to the friendly Soviet peoples, our deep thanks and heartfelt appreciation for the friendly USSR support for, and solidarity with, our people's just struggle and popular intifadah to end the Israeli occupation of our territory and to establish our independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital. I reiterate my heartfelt congratulations and send you warmest wishes of continued good health, happiness, and success in leading the friendly Soviet peoples to achieve their aspired progress and prosperity.

DFLP Claims 'Infiltration' Responsibility

JN1703065190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] In a statement issued from Beirut, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has claimed responsibility for the infiltration attempt by three of its members from southern Lebanon into Israel. This operation resulted in the deaths of the three infiltrators at the hands of the Israeli army.

'Arafat Receives Swedish Government's Message

JN1603185590 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has received an important message

from the Swedish Government dealing with the latest developments in the international peace efforts to resolve the Palestine issue.

This occurred when brother president Abu-'Ammar received the Swedish ambassador to Tunisia this morning. They reviewed current political developments and the situation in occupied Palestine.

The meeting was attended by brothers Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Movement Central Committee's member, and Sami Musallam, director of brother Abu-'Ammar's office.

Abu-Sharif Meets With King Husayn in London

JN1603203490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1955 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] London, 16 Mar (WAKH)—Jordan's monarch King Husayn Ibn-Talal, who is currently on a visit to Britain, met with Bassam Abu-Sharif, special adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, today.

In a statement to WAKH following the meeting, Abu-Sharif said that during the one-hour meeting, they discussed the latest political developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and coordination between Jordan and the PLO. The talks also dealt with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's expected visit to Jordan.

Abu-Sharif, who arrived in London yesterday, met with William Waldegrave, UK minister of state in the Foreign Office.

PLO's Al-Zibri on Israeli Crisis, Emigration

JN1703171490 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 15 Mar 90 p 16

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—PLO Executive Committee member Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], has described the cabinet crisis in Israel as a maneuver between two parties that refuse to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In a statement to AL-BAYAN in Tunis yesterday, he said that there are no differences between the Likud and Labor parties regarding their refusal to recognize Palestinian rights. He added: The Israeli-U.S. so-called differences are confined to procedural matters pertaining to the peace process, and not to the political essence of this process. The PLO will not be deceived by this.

Regarding the Palestinian position on peace efforts, Abu-'Ali Mustafa said: We say that dialogue should be held in accordance with the PLO Central Council's resolutions, which were confirmed by president Yasir 'Arafat in his recent speech marking the 28th month of the intifadah, and that a solution can only be achieved within the framework of the international peace conference.

He categorically denied that the PLO had presented a list of the names of the members of the Palestinian delegation to the proposed dialogue with Israel to any party. He said that reports to this effect are aimed at creating confusion among the Palestinians and transferring the crisis to the PLO.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa stressed that the contradiction between the Palestinian and the Israeli-U.S. positions is a major one. He said it is impossible to bypass Palestinian rights and the PLO's role. He said the PLO will not allow the United States to exclude the USSR and West Europe from the peace process.

The Palestinian official said the PLO is not optimistic about contacts held among the United States, Israel, and Egypt. He added: In the event an agreement is reached among the three parties to hold a meeting in Washington, the PLO will not be bound by what is decided so long as the conferees continue to ignore the Palestinian fact.

Regarding the PLO's views on the formation of the Palestinian delegation to the proposed dialogue, the PLO Executive Committee member said: The delegation must represent the Palestinians inside and outside [the occupied territories]. By outside I mean the Palestinians in the diaspora, not the deportees, because through this formula, Israel is seeking to confine the participation in the delegation to inhabitants and not to a cause. This is another maneuver to separate the inside and the outside and to cancel the PLO's role as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Regarding Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine, Abu-'Ali Mustafa, who is the representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the PLO Executive Committee, said: We hope the Soviets will not make emigration, which we reject in principle, so easy, because this raises the concern of the Palestinians and Arabs.

Fatah Central Committee Elects Two New Members

JN1703181490 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 15 Mar 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Tunis, AL-ANBA'—Fatah Movement's Central Committee has elected two new Central Committee members. They are Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to president Yasir 'Arafat, and 'Abdallah al-Ifranji, the PLO's representative in West Germany. It was also agreed that the Movement's Revolutionary Council will elect one more member. [passage omitted]

Libya

People's Congresses To Hold 'Emergency' Meetings

LD1603204690 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Tomorrow, the Basic People's Congresses will start their emergency session meetings throughout the Great Jamahiriyah's municipalities. The General People's Congress issued a decision calling upon the Basic People's Congresses to meet in an emergency closed session on Saturday 17 March to discuss the brother leader of the revolution's proposals during his speech at the General People's Congress. Therefore, all public services, various sectors, stores, companies, partnerships, work sites, air flights, and markets will be suspended, except for emergencies, tomorrow afternoon, 17 March.

Editor Views Al-Rabitah Fire, Anti-Iraq Plan

LD1703104290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Mar (JANA)—The American ABC television network said Iraq is building a reactor for manufacturing uranium necessary for the production of nuclear bombs and is developing missiles capable of hitting targets in occupied Palestine, the Soviet Union, and Iran.

The network showed photographs and construction plans which it alleged are those of three sites for developing, testing, and producing missiles in Iraq. The JANA Arab affairs editor commented on these allegations saying:

We now see the U.S. Administration, now that it has been reassured by the fire breaking out in the al-Rabitah pharmaceuticals plant, directing its well-known allegations against Iraq as it has started to raise a series of allegations against this Arab country to impose another shackle on the Arab nation so that no Arab country can realize advanced achievements that would secure a safe life to its sons. He pointed out that the U.S. aim in this regard is known and exposed; however, other Arabs are still unaware and have not moved to confront the U.S. plan which aims at paralyzing Arab potentialities everywhere in the Arab homeland. He also pointed out that some Arabs will discover too late the seriousness of this hostile plan, and then they will have nothing left apart from weeping and sorrow for their foolishness.

The editor affirmed that the nature of this plan will inevitably lead to the necessity of direct military invasion by U.S. armies, and these armies will walk Arab streets and the Zionists will become the U.S. policeman who will take charge of the task of internal security in the Arab homeland. He also pointed out that the U.S. plan is based on an ethnic racist spirit incited by the historical hatred against the pan-Arab heritage of the Arab nation and its Islamic religion, pointing out that this U.S. plan found a deep-rooted tendency in the Zionist mentality which is hostile to mankind, and developed in harmony with this tendency in a way to serve the selfish interests of the United States.

It is worth reminding the Arabs who did not wake up following the speech delivered by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at the recent Arab Cooperation Council summit in which he stressed the deep U.S. enmity toward the Arabs. He called on all Arabs to be one single body in the face of foreign threats, and to realize pan-Arab cooperation among them in all sectors.

We also would like to remind these Arabs of the speech of [Syrian] President Hafiz al-Asad during the March revolution anniversary, in which he sounded the alarm bell for all Arabs, particularly when he said that it is sad to see other strong nations getting together while the Arab nation is becoming disunited, threatened, and weak. President al-Asad also warned all Arabs against the alarming developments that threaten all Arabs. He called on them to prepare and face up to this danger so that they do not lose what they have inherited from their ancestors and still possess.

JANA's Arab affairs editor recalls that the Great 1 September Revolution, as stated by its leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, has warned the Arabs repeatedly for twenty years of the threats and nature of the hostile plan, in all its forms. Once again this revolution warns against the seriousness of this U.S. aggression.

In conclusion, the editor emphasized that the last opportunity for the Arabs to confront this hostile plot is now available. They must either prepare themselves now, or the opportunity will be wasted, and then they will only have themselves to blame.

We also strongly and firmly stress that the angry and revolutionary generation of this nation will know how to thwart and destroy all the various elements and constituents of this octopus-like plot. Our glorious nation will defeat its enemies and raise its head high, it will establish its nation and recover its glory. Thanks to its usual intellectual contributions, this nation will set up an excellent formula for social justice, and only then will peace and security reign in the world.

Further Reportage on 14 Mar Al-Rabitah Fire

'Sabotage' Caused 'Huge Fire'

LD1703163190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Mar (JANA)—A source at the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau has confirmed that the al-Rabitah pharmaceutical factory was subjected to a terrorist sabotage operation, a manifestation of organized state terrorism, carried out by hostile intelligence apparatuses, causing a huge fire.

The source pointed out that the colonialist states, foremost the United States and the Zionist enemy, are doing their utmost to prevent the Arab countries from achieving peaceful development and from using modern tecnology, even in the manufacturing of medicines and other life-saving equipment.

The source also pointed out that the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has several times confirmed the peaceful nature of the al-Rabitah pharmaceutical factory, and that it does not produce any poisonous materials to affect the environment and human life. There is no doubt that one of the intentions of this cowardly act was the rejection of previous Libyan statements, but the contrary has happened: The allegations of the United States, West Germany, and the Zionists were refuted and the world has exposed them.

The source recalled the statements by the U.S. Government spokesman, which did not exclude the carrying out of sabotage operations against the factory. The source concluded by warning world public opinion against the seriousness of any repetition of the aggressive actions carried out by the U.S. Administration against the Libyan Arab people, urged it to shoulder its responsibilities and stand against use of the policy of force or the threat of force, and warned against the U.S. Administration's nonadherence to international charters and laws in its relations with other peoples.

Kuwait's 'Regret' Reported

LD1603190190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Mar (JANA)—Kuwait has expressed profound regret over the fire that broke out in the al-Rabitah pharmaceutical plant in the Great Jamahiriyah the day before yesterday.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, told KUNA today that the incident was against the interests of the Jamahiriyah, as well as the interests of the Arab homeland as a whole. [passage omitted]

Maltese Interior Minister Visits, Holds Talks

LD1703184190 Tripoli JANA in English 1657 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabia [March] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A joint meeting took place today at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation between the acting secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, and on the Maltese side Dr. Guido de Marco, the deputy prime minister and minister of the interior in Malta, and the delegation in his company.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations, means to consolidate and enhance them for the mutual benefit of the two friendly peoples of Great Jamahiryah and Malta. Also, the two sides discussed a number of international issues of common interest.

Morocco

Statement on Expulsion of Amnesty Representatives

LD1803220590 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Rabat, 18 Mar (MAP)—In the past two days Amnesty International published a statement in London announcing that Morocco has expelled two of its representatives who had arrived in Morocco suddenly last Tuesday [13 March] to follow up the organization's contacts with the Moroccan authorities. The Moroccan Government issued the following clarification:

At the invitation of King Hassan II a delegation of Amnesty International visited Morocco on 13 and 14 February 1990. During the visit the organization's representatives were received by the Moroccan monarch and held lengthy discussions with a Moroccan ministerial committee on a report prepared by Amnesty International.

In fact, the mission came within the framework of a program of meetings which were due to be continued during the second half of March. This reflects Morocco's willingness to move forward in the sphere of human rights on the basis of the reassurances offered by King Hasan II personally during his meetings with the representatives of Amnesty International, which were reaffirmed by the Moroccan Government in a letter from the prime minister in which he provided a detailed report replying to the aforementioned organization's allegations.

Despite all the signs which reflect Morocco's goodwill, Amnesty deliberately adopted provocative stands which contradict the spirit of dialogue which should have prevailed at the debates which the Moroccan monarch called for. Thus, the organization began to ignore all the contacts which were carried out by its representatives in Morocco, and the clear and detailed explanations which were offered in response to the points made in the report presented by Amnesty International, case by case. However, the organization published, without any amendment, the report it had prepared before its representatives' visit to Morocco.

Our country has denounced this attitude and bad intentions; however, as a proof of its goodwill, Morocco was eager to maintain its contacts with Amnesty International by organizing a new meeting in Morocco during the second half of March. However, this organization persevered in its provocative attitude, casting aside the program of action agreed upon by the two parties. According to this program it was mandatory on both

sides to agree a priori on a date to resume the talks on the points of Amnesty International's report which is published prematurely.

The new task, in Morocco's view, was to complete the talks on the points raised by the aforementioned report. However, Amnesty International elected to disregard the agreed program and suddenly hastened to send a delegation which it claimed would have a new fact-finding task, thereby putting Morocco in the situation of a fait accompli, as if there were a devious intention to undermine the process Morocco had initiated. However, according to recent correspondence dated 7 March and received on 15 [March], Amnesty International had asked the Moroccan Government to agree on 25 March as a date for carrying out that new mission and, despite the fact that Morocco had not yet expressed its agreement on the suggested dates, Amnesty International took the initiative and sent a delegation on 13 March, informing the Moroccan Government only on the day of arrival of this delegation. Needless to say, this unbecoming attitude is aimed at putting Morocco under pressure, consequently striking at the process of dialogue initiated by the Kingdom.

As a sovereign state, Morocco cannot accept this kind of behavior, which constitutes blatant interference in its internal affairs. Our country is undoubtedly open, but that does not exclude anyone from adhering to conventions, principles of respect, and propriety towards any state. We only regret that these elementary principles were ignored by Amnesty International which has inexplicably abandoned the working program established previously; a program which openly aims to follow up a dialogue with the competent Moroccan Government authorities, which Amnesty International requested should be the sole party to be addressed in the framework of the report prepared by the organization.

Amnesty International has, therefore, deliberately violated in spirit and letter the debates which were started. This, consequently, made Morocco postpone to a later date the debates, which will take place when the Moroccan Government agrees on a date that will be set by joint agreement, providing that Amnesty International undertakes to respect thoroughly the action framework as defined by the two sides.

Obviously, there is no justification for the presence of an Amnesty International delegation in Morocco, and the mission it has taken upon itself unilaterally is of no substance for the simple reason that it is outside the action framework previously defined. Despite all that, the Moroccan Government remains open-minded regarding the dialogue which it initiated, and it hopes that Amnesty International will make a constructive and reasonable effort in the future.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Attacks in France

LD1503124490 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Rabat, 15 Mar (MAP)—In a statement on the recent escalation of the wave of criminal assault against Moroccan citizens living in France, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation stressed that the Moroccan community in France is living there according to agreements and treaties signed by both Morocco and France. The life of this hard-working community has so far been generally characterized as being in complete harmony with the local population because of its participation in the development and prosperity of the host country.

In its statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation said that, as it points out with great concern, the new eruption of racism and hostility towards foreigners led to appalling and unacceptable criminal actions against a peaceful and innocent community, it considers these incidents as deliberate crimes aimed at disturbing the existing peace and understanding between French citizens and the Maghreb community.

The ministry recorded the positive character of the statements and stances expressed by the highest French authorities and representatives of political parties, and various trade union and human rights organizations. The Ministry expresses its sincere hopes that the culprits of these appalling actions will be severely punished, as they deserve. The statement said that only in this way will the Maghreb community feel confident in the protection and security to which it is legally entitled.

In its statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation pointed out that because of the gravity of these events and their possible reflections, the Moroccan Government has asked to include this matter on the agenda of the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] foreign ministers meeting at the end of this month in order to launch a joint action in this matter.

Chadian President Pays Visit, Holds Talks

Received by King Hassan

LD1503110290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Excerpts] At noon today in the royal palace in Agadir His Majesty King Hassan II, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, received Chadian President Hissein Habre, who is visiting our country. His majesty and the Chadian president held private talks. [passage omitted]

The [Chadian] delegation includes Ibni Oumar Mahamet Saleh, minister of planning and cooperation; (Abdelbaki Boukhari), secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [as received]; and Allami, Chadian ambassador to Rabat.

Concludes Visit, Leaves 16 Mar

LD1703191790 Rabat MAP in English 1010 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Rabat, Mar. 17 (MAP)—President Hissein Habre of Chad left Morocco Friday at the end of a friendship and work visit during which he conferred with King Hassan II.

In a message of thanks to the sovereign, President Habre expressed satisfaction at the 'fruitful' talks he held with King Hassan II and at the two sides' determination to consolidate further 'the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation existing between Morocco and Chad'. President Habre said he would spare no effort to promote these relations.

In a statement to the media upon departure, President Habre said his talks with the sovereign covered means of reactivating bilateral cooperation in various areas and a set of African and international issues of common concern.

As to prospects of bilateral cooperation, the Chadian president said the two countries decided to lay new bases for their cooperation in matters of agro-industries, banking activities and small and medium enterprises. They also decided to give a new momentum to their scientific, technical and cultural cooperation, President Habre said.

A meeting of Moroccan and Chadian officials and businessmen will be shortly held in Ndjamena for further talks on means of promoting bilateral cooperation, President Habre said. President Habre had started his visit to Morocco Wednesday.

Sudan

'Anxiety' Over U.S. Allegations on Al-Rabitah

EA1603122590 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, March 16 (SUNA)—Sudan has expressed anxiety over the American allegations the Libyan chemical factories. [sentence as received]

The Foreign Ministry in statement issued yesterday said Sudan has followed with extreme anxiety the allegations by the United States and the Western mass media that Libya producing poisonous chemicals in its territories, and the Wednesday's burning of one of the Libyan chemical factories. [sentence as received] Sudan condemned this act which aimed at threatening Libya, the statement said.

The statement also called on the international community to support Libya and to shoulder up its responsibilities towards preserving the international peace and security.

The statement urged the international organisations to condemn such act and to support Libya in this regard.

National Dialogue Conference With Libya

LD1803235190 Tripoli JANA in English 0815 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, al-Rabia [March] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The conference of national dialogue on issues of peace in sisterly Sudan declared its full support for the project of unionist integration between Great Jamahiryah and Sudan as a step along the path of total Arab unity.

The conference issued a statement at the end of its session at the Hall of Friendship last Thursday asserting that the project of unionist integration between Great Jamahiryah and Sudan constituted a legitimate aspiration for our Arab nation which is facing the challenges of the future in the light of international changes which are consolidating large blocks and left no room for isolated smaller entities.

Moreover, the conference sternly condemned and deplored the blatant American threats based on planned provocations with [words indistinct] to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of this beloved part of the Arab nation-the Libyan Arab territory and people.

The statement reaffirmed the steadfast support of the Sudanese Arab people for the Libyan Arab people in defence of its land and the steadfastness of the Arab nation in countering the imperialist onslaught.

Al-Bashir Addresses Red Sea Military Personnel

EA1803152290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] This morning, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman, will attend the opening session of the development work seminar on the Sudanese shipping line. He will also visit the (Hamash Koreb) area.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar announced that the rebellion's thorns had been broken militarily, expressing the revolution's readiness for dialogue to solve the southern problem. In his address to the officers, NCO's, and men of the Red Sea military area he said the revolution would not surrender the citizens' rights, and that the rebellion could not achieve what it needed, stressing that the revolution's stand towards solving the southern problem was firm. It does not budge, and any solution to the problem has to be (?accepted) by the Sudanese, he said, adding that the current fighting had been imposed on us.

In his address at a public rally in Port Sudan yesterday Lt. Gen. 'Umar said that the revolution would work to upgrade Port Sudan's capacity, and restore life to Sawakin Port until it incorporated the [word indistinct] from Port Sudan's capacity. He stressed that working

discipline in the port involved control over the movement of exports and imports, in addition to prohibition of smuggling operations, pointing out that the revolution would institute [word indistinct] penalty. He called on the organized forces, officials, and salvation committees to work to combat the smuggling. He announced that the Eastern University was being set up and, initially, colleges of education and marine science would be established in Port Sudan. He also stressed that the College of Medicine in Kassala had received the necessary supplies.

He said: The revolution has decided to stop exporting sorghum. The treatment of this had been completed with the (?commerce minister) of the government in the region. [passage indistinct]

Calls For Clearing 'Outlaws'

EA1803162790 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] [Placename indistinct] 18 Mar (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir has announced that the rebellion movement has suffered military defeat, pointing out that the revolution is ready for peace talks on the basis of strength.

Addressing officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Red Sea military area here yesterday Gen al-Bashir vowed that the rebellion movement will not be able to achieve its designs through war at the expense of the Sudanese people. Any solution to the south Sudan problem should be acceptable to all Sudanese people, Gen al-Bashir said. He noted that the Armed Forces are forced to continue fighting, reiterating the revolution's keenness to realise peace in the country.

Speaking on the politicians of the defunct partisan regime, the revolution leader described them as lacking any credibility. He said former Interior Minister Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi who had been a (?staunch) enemy of the rebellion movement when he was in power, has now joined the movement. Al-Fadil, by signing an agreement with the rebellion movement, proves that he just wants to rule to loot the country's wealth.

Gen. al-Bashir affirmed that the Armed Forces are retaining the initiative at the different combat areas. He pledged that the south Kurdufan area will be cleared of the outlaws before the coming of the rainy season.

Gen. al-Bashir hailed the support rendered to the Armed Forces by the People Defence Forces at combat zones. Great numbers of youth have asked to join the People Defence Forces, Gen. al-Bashir added.

Meanwhile, Gen. al-Bashir later in the day, addressed a mass rally held at the main square of the town. Gen. al-Bashir told the mass rally that the revolution would work for boosting the capacity of Port Sudan harbour and for rebuilding Sawakin harbour.

He called on the popular committees and the regular forces to combat smuggling, stressing that the punishment for [words indistinct].

Gen. al-Bashir further called on the salvation committees to launch war against (?wine) and liquor drinking, saying that the revolution has decided to confiscate any house used for prostitution or selling liquor. The RCC chairman announced that [words indistinct].

Meanwhile, Gen. al-Bashir has received a cheque of four million [Sudanese] pounds donated by the Eastern Region citizens in support of the Armed Forces. The [words indistinct] region's salvation committee.

Official Confirms New Talks With Rebels 'Shortly'

EA1603211390 Khartoum SUNA in English 0912 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, March 16 (SUNA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and the chairman of the National Dialogue Conference on Peace Issues Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah yesterday confirmed that a new round of talks with the rebellion movement will be conducted shortly. He said preparations are being taken for the coming peace talks.

Addressing the meeting of the members of the peace conference yesterday, Colonel Khalifah indicated that the recent visit of the RCC chairman to Zaire has dealt with the rebellion movement. He noted that the government is awaiting answers to some inquiries prior to discussion of essential issues at the coming round of talks.

Col Khalifah expressed hope that the rebellion movement would enter the coming round of talks with a serious peace programme. He went on commending the efforts exerted by the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, the Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, the former Nigerian President Obosango and the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Mr. Cohen as regards supporting Sudan's process.

Speaking on the integration between Sudan and Libya, Col. Khalifah said such a step was supposed to be taken in the past but it was ignored on account of the party regime's negligence.

He described the Sudanese-Libyan integration as capable of providing the interests of the two countries. Khalifah (?emphasised) that Sudan, Egypt and Libya represent the heart of the Arab nation and that the unity with Libya actually symbolizes a nucleus for an overall Arab unity.

Meanwhile, fruitful debate was conducted by the conferences through which they supported the integration project, stressing the necessity of cooperation between Sudan and the neighbouring African countries.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement 15 Mar

EA1503211590 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Mar (SUNA)—Sudan has stressed that it does not lick anyone's boots, nor does it stoop to anyone, craving their aid or going in fear of their pressure and bullying. Instead it relies on God (?and) its close brothers and sincere friends. In a statement issued today, the Foreign Ministry stated that the Sudanese Government is sincere in its intentions and determinations in all its policies and its defined goals, as well as in the steps it has taken, and that it expects all brothers and friends to be supporters and helpers of Sudan in all its positive endeavors.

The statement stresses that the Sudanese Government fully expects that relations with all (?brothers) and friends will prosper, and that in its bid to underline this objective, it deals with all developments in relations with friendly countries with objectivity and careful consideration. The Sudanese Government has attended to this desire by embarking on a clear policy, and making practical and executive steps in order to fulfil the aims of the policy.

The statement went on to say that the Sudanese Government has made the realization of peace its top priority. Thus, it convened the national dialogue conference on peace and adopted its recommendations [words indistinct] in this respect, and for realizing peace. It also demonstrated its readiness for negotiations with the rebel movement and held two rounds of negotiations with the movement in Addis Ababa and Nairobi. Even the rebel leadership itself has acknowledged that the revolution's proposals which has (?emanated) from the recommendations of the national dialogue conference are suitable as a basis for a peaceful settlement of the continuing conflict.

The statement said that Sudan still adheres to the stance which aims at achieving peace through negotiation, that it had thanked the valuable initiative by the (?brotherly) African states and by (?good samaritan) individuals, and that we will proceed on this path until the peace flags flutter throughout the homeland.

The statement pointed out that the government, understanding that the human losses and sufferings experienced by the innocent citizens in the areas of conflict and by the migrants, are losses of the entire homeland, had therefore striven to continue the second phase of Operation Lifeline. It (?accelerated) efforts to reach an agreement with the UN and the donors. These efforts have resulted in an agreement being reached and on practical steps being taken to resume Operation Lifeline.

The Foreign Ministry statement said that the first phase immediately after the outbreak of the revolution necessitated some exceptional measures in order to safeguard the revolution. Now the (?time) has come to enact all [word indistinct] which will protect human rights and dignity. That is why the revolution has freed the detainees, and procedures are under way to free all whose innocence is established.

The statement stressed that the revolution is determined to establish a new democracy founded on consultation and dialogue with various popular and factional groups, and to the extension of the ideological and political spectrum in order to establish a comprehensive popular participation [words indistinct] in all the affairs of the homeland. The statement pointed out in this respect that a decision has been taken recently providing for the establishment of the political committee's consultant assembly, so that it can study the affairs of the future government, as well as the ideal organizational formula to ensure unity of direction and freedom of expression while maintaining the diversity which Sudan amply enjoys in all its ways and forms.

On U.S.-Sudanese relations, the statement said that Sudan had expected the United States to move in a direction of appreciation for all these efforts, and that it would work in accordance with the provisions of U.S. foreign aid act number (?A/513) for a period long enough to help Sudan in economic and humanitarian aid, and which would enable it to complete [words indistinct] which it had begun, seeing that such a stance could bolster these positive steps.

The statement further added that Sudan issues in every [passage indistinct] in the field of realizing peace; in giving relief to the needy; in respecting human rights; and in extending consultations with a firm conviction and a deep-rooted faith emanating from original Sudanese beliefs in lofty humane principles.

Tunisia

Tunisia Denies Harboring Sabotage Group

LD1603143690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1141 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, March 16 (KUNA)—Tunisia Friday denied foreign press reports which claimed that a group in Tunis has taken responsibility for the fire that razed to the ground the Libyan pharmaceutical plant in al-Rəbitah. A Tunisian official source denied the reports and also said that the situation on the Libyan-Tunisian border is normal and the borders have not been closed.

A spokesman for the U.S. White House claimed yesterday that the borders were closed following the fire.

OAU Secretary General Hosts News Conference

LD1603214590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmad Salim left Tunisia today at the end of a three-day official visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil. Before

leaving Tunisia, Salim Ahmad Salim held a news conference in which he particularly expressed his respect for the clarity and commitment by President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali toward the struggle of the African continent in the political, social, and economic fields.

Salim Ahmad Salim also expressed his satisfaction over the talks he had with Tunisian officials. With regard to discussions conducted with the Arab League secretary general, Salim Ahmad Salim said that we have agreed to bolster Arab-Afro cooperation in a more realistic and practical way.

In his answers to journalists' questions, Salim Ahmad Salim noted that the recent development in Eastern Europe should compel African countries to deploy more efforts to meet economic and social challenges. The OAU secretary general hailed the work of Arab Maghreb Union countries regarding the integration of their economies. He highlighted the important role enjoyed by these countries aimed at fulfillment of the OAU's goals. Concerning the Mauritanian-Senegalese conflict, Salim Ahmad Salim expressed his optimism over a peaceful solution to this issue. He noted that, thanks to the efforts of the OAU six-man committee, which includes Tunisia, an atmosphere of detente reigns between the two sides, and no escalation of this conflict has been noted.

Maghreb Television Channel To Commence 20 Mar

LD1603124590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Embodying the pledges made by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in his speech on 17 February on the occasion of the commemoration of the first anniversary of the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union, it has been decided that the Maghreb television channel will start its broadcasts next Tuesday, 20 March, from the headquarters of the National Radio and Television [in Tunis]. Its programs will include various productions prepared by the television companies of the Maghreb countries. The programs will be broadcast on the fifth channel, used at present to transmit Italian programs. Please note that the Italian programs can be received throughout Tunisian territory on long-wave UHF. In the first stage the population of Tunis and its suburbs will be able to receive the Maghreban programs. Later the network for their transmission will be extended.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Supports Iraq on Bazoft Execution

LD1803111190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0811 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 18 (KUNA)—Bahraini Premier Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman said Sunday that the campaign against Iraq is unjustified, describing it as an interference in the internal affairs of a brotherly country.

Speaking to daily AL-SIYASAH, the premier said that Iraq has the right to fortify and secure its national security and take strict measures against anyone who meddles in its security, especially those convicted of spying operations.

The Bahraini top official said that Bazoft's history is "not clean" and cited British newspaper reports of his criminal record in the UK.

Bazoft, an Iranian reporter for THE OBSERVER newspaper, was executed under a sentence passed by an Iraqi revolutionary court after being found guilty for spying for Israel.

"When Iraq executed the Iranian spy, it was doing so in accordance with laws implemented in the country, be it on Iraqis or foreigners. Therefore, it was not convenient and proper for it to face such a propaganda and media campaign," Shaykh Khalifah said.

He noted that death sentences are passed all around the world on drug-trafficking, spying and other dangerous crimes.

Shaykh Khalifah advocated solid Arab relations based on unity of stands that would convey a message to the world namely that any harm on any Arab country would trigger a decisive collective Arab reaction.

Arab countries do not want to break international laws, he said, adding that neither would they like to see Iraq-UK relations deteriorate.

"As Arabs, we have to understand the stance taken by Iraq and show a unified stance supporting it," Shaykh Khalifah concluded.

Meanwhile, daily AL-SIYASAH in a front page editorial said execution of the British spy was an "Iraqi sovereign right."

The daily questioned the reason for such a British stance toward the execution, and questioned the cause for implementing such an obscure and ambigious policy with Iraq and against all Arabs at such a critical period in the Middle East.

The daily said that there are several reasons for Britain to take such a position the first is that it, Britain does not want to end the state of no-war, no-peace between Iraq and Iran unless it secures its position from this state.

The daily added that Britain took such a position because it saw that there is a projected demand of oil in the 90's from Arab countries.

The second reason is that Britain does not have a role in peace efforts currently being carried out under a U.S. and Soviet sponsorship.

Britain does not want to see the Lebanese crisis come to an end so that international efforts are distributed against major crises in the world.

Kuwait

Paper Denounces Western 'Uproar' Over Bazoft

LD1703093190 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in its editorial today expressed regret and indignation for the uproar caused by Western countries regarding the execution of a British spy in Baghdad.

The paper stated that countries such as Britain, the United States, Japan, and other Western countries think one of its spies is far more important than a whole people.

It noted the uproar of the West is occuring because one of its spies has been found out and given his due punishment. Also this collective uproar means that the spy, Farzad Bazoft, used to provide collective intelligence services, and these services used to be circulated to the whole Western-Zionist camp.

The paper said: "One would have understood the uproar of the West over the execution of a spy if this uproar was due to human and compassionate factors, and if the West showed one single gesture against the killing, massacre, oppression, suppression, violation of homes and homelands when the victims are Arabs inside their occupied land in Palestine, Lebanon, and the Golan Heights."

The paper added: Israel uses weapons and money from the West to violate basic human rights, yet not one single country belonging to the "Human Rights countries" in the West hints about withdrawing its ambassador [from Israel] or threatens to impose sanctions as Britain did following the execution of Bazoft in Baghdad.

In conclusion, the paper warns such a Western uproar could hide threats and plans to launch an attack and carry out destructive and subversive acts similar to those that happened at Tamuz plant in Iraq in the past or al-Rabitah factory in Libya.

Saudi Arabia

Kingdom Condemns Plant Fire at al-Rabitah

LD1803214290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1818 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Mar (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed its strong condemnation of the fire at al-Rabitah pharmaceutical plant in the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

A responsible source told SPA today "the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia followed with great concern the details announced by the Libyan media on the damage resulting from this incident. The Kingdom also denounced the claims which said the plant produces chemical substances, despite the official statements and communiques in which the Libyan Government categorically refuted the claims the aforementioned plant was for non-peaceful purposes."

At the end of the statement, the source called upon the international community to work to end these hostile practices against Arab interests and against the region's security on the whole.

Iraq's Saddam Husayn Arrives on Visit 17 Mar

LD1703155190 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, arrived in Hafr al-Batin this afternoon for a visit to the Kingdom at the invitation of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, servant of the two holy places, who welcomed his excellency upon arrival at the airport. [passage omitted]

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is accompanied by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and Ahmad Husayn, director of the Presidency.

Holds Talks With Fahd

LD1703215290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2121 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Hafr al-Batin, 17 (SPA)—King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his brother, Saddam Husayn, president of Iraq, conducted a meeting this evening. The following persons attended for the Saudi side: His Royal Highness Prince Salman Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh; His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad Ibn-Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of the eastern zone; Ibrahim al-Anqari, special adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers; and Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi; Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nusayyif Jasim; and Presidential Court Director Ahmad Husayn attended on the Iraqi side.

'Fruitful' Cooperation Sought

JN1803081590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2150 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Hafr al-Batin, 17 Mar (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, held a round of talks on the strong and developed ties between the two fraternal states. The talks also dealt with the mutual trust between the two countries and their common desire to bring about fruitful cooperation to enhance Arab solidarity and all that is beneficial to the Arab nation.

The two leaders also discussed the Arab state of affairs, as well as the threats posed to the Arab nation in all arenas.

The talks also revolved around the developments of the situation between Iraq and Iran, and Iran's stance, which rejects any serious or sincere efforts to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace with Iraq and other states of the region. They also tackled the developments of the Palestine question and the dangers that threaten the future of this question and the Arab nation, particularly the perils of the planned mass immigration to the occupied Arab territories, denying the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and of overlooking the role of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

The talks, moreover, dealt with the premeditated colonialist and Zionist campaigns against the Arab nation in general, and in particular against Arab states which endeavor to build pillars of independence and legitimate progress in all fields to safeguard their security and legitimate interests. The two leaders also discussed the overall situation in the Arab homeland and the need to enhance Arab solidarity and joint Arab action.

The following attended the talks for the Iraqi side: Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Revolution Command Council [RCC] member; Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister and RCC member; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and Ahmad Husayn, chief of the Presidential Court.

The following attended for the Saudi side: Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh, Prince Muhammad Bin-Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of the Eastern Province; Ibrahim al-Saqri, special adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, cabinet minister; and 'Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, then resumed the talks between the two fraternal countries in a closed meeting.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Receives Message From U.S. President

JN1803182490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Mar

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has received a written message from U.S. President George Bush.

SABA' has learned the message touched on a number of bilateral, regional, and international issues. In his message, the U.S. President expressed [words indistinct] of cooperation ties between the two countries. He also voiced appreciation of the current unity steps to restore the unity of the Yemeni homeland. The U.S. President furthermore expressed the United States' commitment to peace efforts and respect for human rights in the Middle East.

Further Reportage Follows Bazoft 'Spy' Execution

Papers Denounce British 'Interference'

JN1603132090 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 16, INA—Iraqi newspapers for today fiercely denounced the fabricated assail [as received] and hasty measures taken by the British Government regarding the execution of the Iranian-born spy who carried a British passport Farzad Bazoft.

The Iraqi papers have been unanimous that this fuss is a flagrant and impudent interference in Iraq's internal affairs and is a fuss whose motives and goals are well-known. The papers have confirmed that by carrying out the execution against the spy Bazoft Iraq has exercised one of the legitimate rights of sovereignty recognized by the international law.

They have stressed on saying that the bodies that have committed their follies have to accept the just conviction passed against their agent and that leaders of colonization and their students must silence the tongues which try to offend the Iraqi people because this great people refuses their colonialist arrogant logic and condemns their reckless behaviours towards Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH daily of today said in this respect that by hanging Bazoft Iraq exercised a rightful act of self-defence and protection of its national and pan-Arab security. It is quite certain that any other independent state that seizes a foreign spy carrying out espionage for the sake of intelligence bodies of two foreign countries, it will do as Iraq has done.

The paper added that as for that British fabricated fuss and those hasty measures taken by the British Government, which seems that it had not till now forgotten that Iraq was in one day one of its colonies and it had dealt to her two severe blows in July 1958 and July 1968. [sentence as received]

The paper emphasised that outcry was blatant and shameless interference in Iraq's internal affairs and was aimed at offending Iraq and distorting its image in international fora.

The paper has said that Bazoft is merely a spy who has confessed to his crime which constitutes a grave danger to Iraq's national security. The spy has confessed and by his handwriting of his committing of the crime and he has used journalism as a cover to hide his actual errand for which he has visited Iraq for six times.

AL-THAWRAH also said that those who were shedding tears on the spy Bazoft and remembered just now the human rights—as if spying on others is one of the human rights—those were practicing the ugliest modes of exposed political hypocrisy. They feign unawareness and turn their backs lest they should see the unsightly crimes committed by the Zionists in occupied Palestine for more than 28 months against children, women and elderly people and do not remember the crimes of premeditated killing, bo[mb]one fracturing, deportation per-petrated daily by the Zio[nist] occupation, but they make great fuss owing to hang[ing] a spy captured in a military prohibited zone.

The paper also confirm[ed] that the British poisonous campaign against Iraq co[uld] not block sight of the world public opinion and all [free] and honest people in the world against soundness [s] and rightfulness of Iraq's atti-tude and legitimacy of [the] resolution for trying and executing the spy Bazoft [where] Iraqi authorities imple-mented in this question [the] Vienna agreement in full. Also, this campaign coul[d] not hide the fact that Britain had practiced through th[is] spy an aggressive act against Iraq and that it had co[m]mitteed an espionage action threatening Iraq's natio[nal] and pan-Arab security.

The paper said that the [Iraqi] people who uprooted the British colonization fro[m] its land and who had not yet forgotten that colonialis[t] history full of crimes, categor-ically refuse any attemp[t] for interfering in its internal affairs or exercising pre[s]sure on it whatever were the forms of this pressure a[nd] its expressions.

The Iraqi people is still [r]emembering well that Britain took sides with Khomeyn[i] Iran during the war and that it had misled itself that [K]homeyni's aggression on Iraq would provide it with t[he] opportunity of return to the Arab Gulf region and to [r]estore its lost role and its lost esteem.

AL-THAWRAH daily [added] Bazoft was a lesson to [all] that they could penetra[te] and that our country is [an] people which are led by [Saddam] God and will not kneel [before] Iraq cannot submit to [extortion] extortion and would not [care] as the measures taken [by] summoning the British [ambassador] and would not permit [any] natural right to protect[ion] As for AL-JUMHURIY[AH] its editorial that Iraq is [an] full sovereignty over it[s] apply its laws on its land[s] whoever they were and [of] Al-JUMHURIYAH als[o] death penalty against th[e] passport Farzad Bazoft [was] sentence passed against [him] in its conviction on it[s] Bazoft's confession to [espionage] Israeli intelligence auth[orities] The paper pointed out [that] Bazoft's hand-written c[onfessions]

AL-THAWRAH daily added further that if hanging Bazoft was a lesson to all those who illusively imagine that they could penetrate Iraq's national security wall and that our country is an open field for their spies, the people which are led by Saddam Husayn do not fear but God and will not kneel before extortion and pressure.

Iraq cannot submit to any form of threatening and extortion and would not care for any measure the same as the measures taken by the British authorities by summoning the British ambassador in Baghdad and ending study of a number of Iraqi students in England and would not permit any side in the world to curb its natural right to protection of its security.

As for AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today it has said in its editorial that Iraq is an independent state enjoying its full sovereignty over its land and has the full right to apply its laws on its lands against those who violate them whoever they were and of whatever nationality.

Al-JUMHURIYAH also confirmed that carrying out death penalty against the Iranian-born spy with a British passport Farzad Bazoft was done on the strength of the sentence passed against him by an Iraqi court depended in its conviction on incontestable evidences and on Bazoft's confession to espionage for the British and Israeli intelligence authorities.

The paper pointed out that it had yesterday published Bazoft's hand-written confessions signed by himself, and

that the Iraqi T.V. had screened yesterday evening Bazoft giving his confessions and saying that he was spying for the British and Israeli intellegence.

It went on saying that despite all that the British official authorities were trying to instigate a fabricated uproar about this spy and the just conviction issued against him, ignoring Iraq's normal right to protect its national security and apply its laws on its lands against him who violates them purposefully particularly if that breach was serving its enemies and causing harm to it, and that was what the spy Bazoft and his British accomplice Daphne Parish had done.

The paper ridiculed the apparatus that instigate a fabricated uproar against Iraq and shed crocodile tears over their agent who has got his just punishment in a legal and just trial and behaved stupidly, confirming that they would arouse nothing in us but mockery and disgust.

The paper added that it would have been better for those apparatuses not to dispatch a spy to our country and to come today crying over his destiny. Iraq is an independent state, proud of its independence and sovereignty over its lands and it is completely keen on its national security and does not permit anyone whoever to breach its laws and spy on its institutions and installations whether that was in the circumstances of war or the circumstances of peace.

The paper concluded by saying that those authorities should also understand that they could not offend Iraq's reputation whatever they did. Iraq's reputation could not be decided by false statements by barbarians of colonization and their students but it would be decided by its glorious history, current achievements and honest attitudes towards issues of liberation, progress and peace.

AL-QADISIYAH daily said in its editorial that by carrying out the execution of the Iranian spy Bazoft, Iraq had clearly, and truly and with the strong belief in its principles and values, and with courage of the one that does not accept to bow but before God, said its word, declared its decision and implemented conviction of the law.

The paper stressed that Iraq's policy was clear from the very beginning that it would not tolerate any form of espionage and the time when Iraq was a place where spies and agents were moving easily had gone for ever, therefore the foreign circles of espionage and intelligence should realize that beforehand.

The paper confirmed that the way by which the spy Bazoft and his accomplice were captured red-handed proved vigilance of the Iraqi security appartuses.

The paper went on saying that the spy had confessed fully to his commission through the mass media without any pressure and his confessions were broadcast live and published in his handwriting. And the measures taken against him during the investigations and trial were legal, therefore no party has any right to meddle with Iraqi laws and our internal affairs for the very simple reason which is that we did not at any time interfere in laws and affairs of those countries including Britain whose official and media authorities are launching an unjust campaign against Iraq.

The paper emphasized that Britain and the Zionists must now and in future realise that Iraq will not yield to pressures particularly in matters pertaining to its national security and sovereignty and life and existence of its people.

The paper concluded that Iraq's reputation and position in the world would not be decided by Britain's foreign secretary but made by will of its people who are proud of their original bright history and their present achievements and sincere contributions to serving issues of liberation, progress and peace.

'Masses' Protest British Position

JN1703164890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Representatives of the angry masses of Baghdad have handed to the British press attache at the British Embassy in Baghdad a memorandum of protest and denunciation of the shameless British position. The masses also plastered copies of the document on the gate and walls of the embassy. The document says that Iraq's implementation of its constitutional and legal institutions is part of its basic right to exercise its sovereignty and national independence. It is a right guaranteed by international charters and standards.

The document strongly denounces the filthy British interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and says that this behavior will be confronted in all arenas of national struggle at the same level and that Iraq's people, whose history is an asset to history in general and whose brave leadership and great leader Saddam Husayn are the pride of the Arab nation, will not be affected or frightened by conspiracies or by the colonialist owl under the cover of darkness. The following is the text of the memorandum:

To the British prime minister, London, through the British Embassy in Baghdad: When you were invaders of our region and homeland, your history was a history of looting, disgrace, robbery, and colonialism. Your policy was also a forgery of the peoples' will, an oppression of their liberties, a hindrance to their progress, and a repression of their humanity. Throughout that history, you were identified with everything that is shameless and mean. The peoples of our region, however, managed to expel you from their lands. But your desire to exercise the old colonialist policies, which originally stemmed from a worn-out mentality and illegitimate interests that lack every ethical and human element, has led to this angry response of our masses in Baghdad. This follows your wailing over our wise leadership's implementation of a just and legal decision against a foundling of your spies and those of world Zionism, who personally came

to our country to spy on our national security and who received the just punishment he deserved.

The implementation of the decisions of our constitutional and legal institutions is a basic right of our sovereignty and national independence. This right is guaranteed for us even by international charters and norms. Your wailing will not be heard even in the graves of your dead. If your government tries to continue its mean interference in our domestic affairs, you will face here what you have faced in every arena of national struggle. Enough of this humiliation, shame, and disgrace.

Our people, victorious throughout their glorious history, will continue to be victorious. They achieved victory in the 1920 revolution as they fought your planes with canes from the southern marshes and they achieved victory in (al-Rarinjiyah) fighting in response to the calls of their nationalists while your mercenaries were hidden in dens of colonialist darkness. Our people also achieved victory in the 1941 revolution as they fought with the chests of their sons while you were in the camps of the military and political era. They also achieved victory in 1948 during the battle using the pencils and copy books of their students, destroying the Portsmouth Treaty while still in its the womb of political injustice. They also achieved victory in 1956 as they fought prompted by the conscience of Arabism, defeating your aggressor and invading remnants who fell as food for the sharks in the Suez Canal. Our people achieved victory on 14 July 1958, fighting along with their brave national Armed Forces when your fleets and those of your allies and Zionism were cruising the high seas for aggression. They also achieved victory in the revolution of 30 July 1968 as they fought according to their principles while you hanged people on pillars in Liberation Square in Baghdad. Our people achieved victory when they carried out their historic decision to nationalize oil while you, like scorpions, were spreading poison in our national soil. Our people achieved victory by wiping out the pockets of agentry supported by your weapons in the northern part of the homeland in 1975. Look, our mountains, like the sons of our people, take pride in the light of glory and national honor. Our people also achieved victory during the aggressive war, which was imposed by the Magian racists with the support of your colonialist and Zionist circles.

These victories prove of our people's glory and the fairness of history. History has given us the dignity we deserve through civilization. As for you, history has torn away all that you have used to cover yourselves. This is what you deserve. As for our people, history takes pride in their history and Arabism and in their brave leadership and its great leader Saddam Husayn. They will not be frightened by conspiracies and a colonialist owl in the darkness. Victory always comes to people when their struggle is just. Victory is always for the struggler Arab nation. Victory is always for the lofty Iraqis. Shame on the British colonialists and their supporters of the Zionists and the rancorous.

[Signed] Baghdad masses, 17 March 1990

NPPF Cables Support to Saddam

JN1803094090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2140 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from comrade Hasan 'Ali, secretary general of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front [NPPF], in which the front expresses, on behalf of the Iraqi political and patriotic forces, its condemnation and denunciation of the flagrant British interference in Iraq's internal affairs. The cable reads as follows:

To our great leader, the symbol to all Iraqis and the hero of our national victories; to the esteemed person of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn: With sweeping anger and indignation, the NPPF and independent political parties and figures have followed the news of the rancorous, poisonous, and cunning campaign being launched by the British Government and the mean and malicious writers in its yellow press, which is linked to Zionist interests, against our militant country while exercising its right to defend its security, protect the safety of its people, and safeguard its sovereignty against those adept at carrying out acts of sabotage and crime, including spy Farzad Bazoft, who was fairly punished for his deliberate attempt to harm our people and inflict damage on our independent homeland.

While strongly condemning this blatant British interference in our internal affairs which contravenes all international norms, laws, and charters, particularly those pertaining to national sovereignty and free and independent decisionmaking, the patriotic political forces and their broad masses would like to affirm their total rallying around their historic nationalist leadership to continue the march of our great people in order to defend our national security, protect our people, and safeguard our independence, which we attained through arduous struggle, immense sacrifices, and generous giving under the canopy of the blessed 17-30 July revolution.

Your Excellency leader President: Here you see Iraq emerging with one resounding voice, displaying patriotic and militant action, and saying openly with the might of its bright history and heroic steadfastness: No to spies, no to falsehoods propagated by malicious people, and no to lies [word indistinct] and charlatanism. Their arbitrary measures will neither shake us nor undermine our resolve, sovereignty, independence, or our free and national decisionmaking.

Look! All of Iraq is shouting from within from the mountains of Dahuk to the liberated city of al-Faw and saying: Yes to the dutiful son of Iraq, Saddam Husayn, the leader, hero, and symbol of the pride of both Iraq and Iraqis. Forge ahead, and victory will always be your lot. Let mercenary writers be accursed, and let the voices of

those participating in spiteful campaigns be silenced. May the enemies of our people die by their own rancor and hatred.

Messages to Thatcher Condemn UK Stance

JN1803150890 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 18, INA—The National Union of Iraq's Youth and Students denounced the British stand hostile to Iraq by execution the Iranian-born British spy journalist Farzad Bazoft. [sentence as received]

In a communique issued here today the union said that the British stance stems from mala fide and latent animosity and shallow behaviour added to its dubious colonial record in the Arab region and the world.

The union had sharply denounced and condemned the British feverish campaign and open measures adopted by the British Government against the Iraqi students studying in Britain.

On the other hand, the Teachers Union denounced the British campaign against Iraq, saying that Iraq would never allow any party in the world to govern its natural right in protecting its security against espionage and aggression and it could not submit to any form of threat and media and political extortion.

Iraqi Patriotic National and Progressive Front condemned the British propaganda campaign hostile to Iraq that executed the Iranian-born British spy journalist Farzad Bazoft.

Mr. Hasan 'Ali, secretary general of the front said in a message sent to British Premier Margaret Thatcher that the British campaign was considered an open interference in Iraq's internal affairs and Iraqi people and the civilised world would never forgive these stances which represent a flagrant aggression on the peoples' liberty and sovereignty.

In this respect, the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party condemned the British Government's stand and its feverish campaigns against Iraq.

In a message addressed to British Premier Margaret Thatcher the party said that the British propaganda campaign hostile to Iraq represented a flagrant and illegitimate interference in Iraq's internal affairs and an open breach of principles of independence and national sovereignty, and their adverse results would harm Britain itself, as being a grave precedent aimed at threatening other sovereign states.

The Executive Council of the Kurdistan Region condemned Britain's attitudes and dubious campaigns against Iraq.

In a message sent to the British premier, Mr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, chairman of the Council, said the inhumane measures adopted by the British Government were not a surprise and could never terrify the brave Iraqis, stressing that Iraq could never yield to extortion or set aside its firm principles by these cheap conducts.

Saddam Returns From Two-Day Saudi Arabia Visit

JN1803152090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Excerpt] President leader Saddam Husayn returned to the homeland with God's care and protection after concluding the two-day visit he paid to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

Ministry Denounces U.S. 'Threats' to Libya

JN1703101190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0942 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA)—Iraq has strongly denounced the hostile threats launched by the U.S. Administration against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. In a statement today, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Iraq expresses fraternal solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah proceeding from its pan-Arab responsibility and its adherence to Arab principles and charters.

Following is the text of the Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement:

We have followed with concern the hostile threats launched by the U.S. Administration against sisterly Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah because of the existence of a factory there. Out of its pan-Arab responsibility and its adherence to Arab principles and charters, Iraq expresses its fraternal solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and denounces any hostile threat against any sisterly Arab country, because this constitutes a threat to pan-Arab security and interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state.

Paper Urges UN Aid Release of Prisoners of War

JN1403180490 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Mar 90 pp 1,15

[Editorial: "Where Do You Stand on the Issue of Prisoners of War?"]

[Text] If the effort to resume Iraq-Iran negotiations and implement Resolution 598 is a positive development deserving our support and encouragement, the effort to release POW's cannot tolerate further delay or be subjected to bargaining in an attempt to link it to developments and results of these negotiations.

The suffering of the POW's has continued needlessly for a long time. These POW's could have been released immediately after the cessation of hostilities between the two countries on 20 August 1988, and allowed to enjoy their freedom and return to their families but for the

Iranian regime, which has adopted an extortionist position, and certain international circles that have appeased that regime and clearly failed to pursue the subject of the POW's and their release.

Because, despite the Iranian regime's blatant violation of the 1949 third Geneva Convention and Iraq's many initiatives, memos, and clarifications to the international parties concerned with peace between Iraq and Iran, these parties have not made a single move to secure the release of the POW's and end their suffering, which makes us, and the rest of the world, feel that these parties are appeasing Iran.

Honesty demands confronting the Iranian regime with its violation of the 1949 third Geneva Convention and exerting pressure on it to release the POW's and not link their cause with the developments and results of the negotiations. This is what the Geneva Convention itself stipulates, and what humanitarian and moral considerations demand. In fact, this is what neutrality and adherence to international responsibilities demand. As for linking the POW's release to the developments and results of the negotiations, this can only mean using the prisoners as a pawn to achieve Iran's illegitimate political aims.

No doubt, the General Secretariat of the United Nations has been fully briefed on the POW issue. It also understands the provisions of the Geneva Convention. Furthermore, its records contain many Iraqi initiatives, letters, and memos dealing with all aspects of this subject and the entire peace issue. Therefore, the secretariat, more than any other party, is called upon to work seriously to release the POW's immediately, without procrastination or delay, especially since this is a humanitarian issue—not a political one subject to disagreements, negotiations, and bargaining.

We are not being pessimistic when we say that using the POW's as a bargaining chip and linking their humanitarian cause to contentious political issues does not help the peace process, but rather hinders it and might even threaten to torpedo it. If the aggressor Iran, which prolonged the war for eight years and dillydallied on UN Resolution 598 until it was forced to accept it, insists on violating the Third Geneva Convention and continues to use the POW's as a pawn to achieve its illegitimate political aims, then nobody should expect Iraq to accept it or give in.

Therefore, concern for continuing the peace process must be backed by an even greater concern for the immediate release of the POW's—not appeasement of Iran or helping it to violate the third Geneva Convention and offend human values and morality. Unless international organizations, starting with the General Secretariat of the United Nations and the Security Council, show such concern, they will be responsible before history for their present position that shows nothing but complete disregard for the sufferings of tens of thousands of prisoners from both countries.

Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

JN1603201290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA)—Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry under secretary, arrived in Baghdad today at the head of a delegation on a several-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, al-Shahin said that during the visit he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on bilateral relations of common interest and means of promoting cooperation between Iraq and Kuwait.

Political Maneuvering, Reaction After Breakup

Peres Sees Coalition of 70

TA1603124690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer Menahem Friedman] What were the initial coalition contacts made today?

[Correspondent Yaron Deqel] We will start with the Likud. The ministers close to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir convened in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—Ministers David Levi and Yitzhaq Moda'i were not invited—and decided that on Sunday the Likud will recommend the man who heads the Likud, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, to the president. The prime minister did not raise the possibility of handing in his resignation as leader of the Likud. The issue was not at all raised in the meeting, we were told. The Likud wants to wait and see who the president entrusts with the task of forming the government. In fact, everything depends on Yitzhaq Shamir, who has not even hinted at the possibility that he may resign; if he does not, he will apparently be the Likud's candidate. Whether he enjoys a majority is altogether a different question. Sara Doron, head of the Likud Knesset faction, will decide on Sunday which delegates will call on the president. As we said, the bottom line is the Likud will recommend Yitzhaq Shamir as prime minister of the next government, following yesterday's fall of his government. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Will the prime minister really have it that easy? Will he be recommended as a candidate despite the fact that we have been hearing suggestions today from the constraints camp not to recommend him as the Likud's candidate?

[Deqel] On this point, we must get into the matter of who elects the Likud candidate. The Likud has been without a constitution ever since the merger between Herut and the Liberal Party. The Herut constitution stipulates that the head of the party list is elected in a meeting of the Central Committee. The Likud cannot conceivably summon the Central Committee before noon on Sunday. Yitzhaq Shamir therefore will be the head of the list at noon on Sunday when Likud representatives call on President Hayim Herzog. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] The Alignment today made the first moves toward putting together a government.

[Deqel] The Alignment's goal is to make sure that most of the Knesset members [MK] recommend Shim'on Peres as their candidate when they call on President Herzog. The Alignment has made its calculations and arrived at the following numbers: The left wing led by the Alignment, and Shim'on Peres is assured of 55 MK's, without the religious parties. Yitzhaq Shamir, on the other hand, can count on the 47 MK's of the Likud and the right-wing Tzomet, Moledet, and Tehiya. The Alignment believes the religious parties' 18 MK's will not necessarily recommend either one of them.

The Alignment believes SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] will tell the president it will accept his ruling, while the National Religious Party will say it favors elections and consequently will not recommend anyone. The Alignment is taking into account the possibility Agudat Yisra'el, which does not support Shamir, may not recommend Peres. In that case, the Alignment will have 55 MK's, while the Likud will have 47.

In any event, the Alignment is holding talks with the religious parties to make sure they recommend Peres when they call on the president. The Alignment's negotiating team—Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Rabin, Rafi Edri, Hayim Ramon, and Mikha Harish—convened in Labor Party headquarters a short while ago to discuss the recommendations to be made to the president on Sunday and to make sure that Peres gets the recommendation of a majority when the parties call on Herzog.

[Friedman] The Alignment's first step today was to hold a meeting with Agudat Yisra'el in Peres' office, which, incidentally, is still in the Finance Ministry. Our correspondent 'Ido Baum reports:

[Baum] The day after the government's fall, MK Shim'on Peres held meetings with associates, political figures, diplomats, and others.

Rabbi Porush of Agudat Yisra'el called early this morning. He said he hopes a broad-based government will be formed and described Peres as the prime minister-designate. Former Minister Rafi Edri agreed with him on this last point and added that he had held various contacts with Agudat Yisra'el officials last night. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni also called on Peres to get a update on the situation, as he put it. Peres himself was not prepared to comment on the optimism with which his supporters see his and the Alignment's political future. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] A spokesman for Agudat Yisra'el reiterated at noon that the party's institutions will convene at the beginning of next week to decide on the candidate they will recommend to the president. The spokesman stressed they have resolved there is nothing to discuss with Yitzhaq Shamir.

Peres believes he can form a coalition of 70 MK's. According to him, a coalition that is united on all issues cannot be formed, but the Zionist left wing and the ultraorthodox parties can sit together. Our correspondent Sarit Mikha'eli reports on Peres' remarks in a meeting with Tel Aviv high school students:

[Mikha'eli] The issue of peace is the main axis on which the new coalition will be based, MK Shim'on Peres said, and therefore there will be no problem with the secular leftist parties sitting together with the religious and

ultraorthodox parties. All other issues will take a back seat to the peace process, he said. There is an agreement with the religious parties not to deal with the Who Is a Jew Law during this Knesset term. As for other religious legislation, Alignment members will enjoy freedom of vote. At the same time, Peres did not rule out the possibility of a national unity government with the Likud on the condition it contains a majority in favor of peace.

As for the promises the Alignment gave the religious parties to attain their support in the no-confidence motion, an ITIM correspondent quotes Peres as having said he promised to make conditions of religious education equal to those of secular education, maintain the status quo on religious affairs, grant freedom of vote on political affairs, and preserve the unity of Jerusalem. In Peres' opinion, the position of the religious parties regarding peace, territorial compromise, and their attitude toward the nonreligious parties has changed. Replying to a student's question, Peres said it is not every day politicians call on religious leaders, but that he calls on them willingly.

Alignment Not in Government

TA1603163190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Attorney General Yosef Harish this afternoon published a legal opinion rejecting the interpretations raised by the Alignment, according to which the Alignment ministers still belong to the caretaker government and their dismissals were not valid before the no-confidence vote in the Knesset.

Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that, according to Attorney General Harish's opinion, the Alignment ministers' tenure in office ended yesterday morning, after 48 hours had elapsed from the time Shim'on Peres was handed a letter of dismissal, and the other Alignment ministers resigned. The Knesset, Harish said, voted no confidence at the end of that day, and therefore the Alignment ministers do not belong to the caretaker government.

Peres on Alternative Government

TA1603181190 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Shlomo Ganor in Peres' office in Jerusalem on 16 March—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; translated from the Hebrew]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Peres, what are the chances of establishing an alternative government following the vote of no confidence in the Knesset?

[Peres] I think the chances are reasonable. I know a supreme effort must be made to set up the government as quickly as possible. First of all, one cannot leave 11 such important ministries, including the Defense and Finance Ministries, unmanned. Above all, we must resume the peace process. This is the most burning issue on the agenda.

[Ganor] Before addressing the peace process, who are the potential partners in a government headed by you?

[Peres] First of all, they must support the peace process. Look, this government all the time... [changes thought] After all, there are a thousand problems everyone must confront, and everyone has a different opinion on each issue. A people must decide what is the most important problem. The coalition must be centered around this. The central problem Israel faces in 1990 is the peace process. In other words, the coalition must be built around the peace process. Anyone who is willing to support the peace process is welcome.

[Ganor] Has the peace process actually been stopped or delayed following the government's collapse?

[Peres] It has not stopped. It has stalled. But even had the government continued to exist, it would have been stuck. We changed the government to further the peace process, not stop it.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, do you estimate there is a majority in the Knesset for the peace process?

[Peres] Yes, certainly yes. You can look at the political map. From the Alignment to the left—as it is called, including the Arab Knesset Members [MK's]—we have 55 MK's who support the peace process. To this one must add SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]; Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef has declared he supports the peace process, and then you already have 61. Agudat Yisra'el, if not all of it, then most of it. This already makes 65, or maybe 66. Degel Hatorah is two, and this makes 68, and I also think about half, if not more, of the five NRP [National Religious Party] MK's also support the peace process.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, you mentioned all the various factions. Did you omit the Likud on purpose? Is there any chance of establishing a unity government?

[Peres] I am not ruling out the Likud. If the Likud... [changes thought] It depends on which Likud; there are two. There are two microphones in the Likud; one microphone belongs to the constraints, while the other microphone is directed against the constraints. I am not personally ruling out the supporters of the constraints; I am ruling out the constraints themselves, because they preclude any progress. With the others one can and should achieve progress.

[Ganor] Under what conditions could you consider the Likud joining a government headed by you?

[Peres] I already said anyone who supports the peace process and giving a positive answer to Baker's letter is welcome.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, returning to the peace process, do you think Egypt has a special role to play in the future?

[Peres] Listen, the greatest fortune ever to befall Israel was that Egypt was led by two great personages; first of all, President al-Sadat and now President Mubarak. President Mubarak has grown with time, and in my opinion, he is the man that kept the peace strategy alive in the Middle East. I think the role President Mubarak fulfilled in the past year was crucial. It may even have been more important than the part played by the United States. I think President Mubarak and his staff held all the delicate strands in their hands, and they were the ones who eventually permitted the formulation of a basis for the Cairo meeting. I saw the Egyptian media did not quote me accurately; I said the Sinai peninsula is not Judaea and Samaria and that Shamir is not Begin [former Likud prime minister], and that 'Arafat is not Al-Sadat, but someone said Mubarak instead of 'Arafat. I have all the respect in the world for Mubarak. I think Mubarak is the man who eventually will lead to talks between Jordan and Israel, and between Syria and Israel.

Levi 'To Exploit' Vacuum

TA1603191790 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Report from the studio by political correspondent Hanan 'Azran—live]

[Text] While the Alignment continued calculating the chances of establishing a narrow government with the ultraorthodox factions, the crisis within the Likud concerning the leadership of the movement burst open. With all respect to Mr. Shamir, he was expected to reach the necessary conclusions, considering the conditions which have transpired, and vacate his position for the good of the movement. These harsh statements were heard today in Shamir's own camp in the Likud, and in the vicinity of the ministers closest to him.

Senior sources in the Arens-Shamir camp said a failure by Shamir to act in this way would enable Minister David Levi to exploit the current vacuum in the Likud, following the government's collapse, in order to seize control of the Likud without a contest.

Minister David Levi remains silent. He will convene the Likud Knesset Members [MK's] that support him on Saturday, and I have learned he will announce his candidacy for the leadership of the Likud during this meeting. Levi's associates expect the participation of some 15 MK's. Minister Levi has told his associates if Prime Minister Shamir reaches what Levi termed the obvious conclusion he cannot form a government because of the rift with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and the other ultraorthodox factions he, David Levi, considers himself capable of doing so, or in other words, of establishing a government.

The Likud regards the current state of affairs as the start of the battle over the leadership of the movement. Things stayed beneath the surface at today's Likud ministerial meeting. Shamir's associates remained silent, and their silence today, Likud sources claimed, was as loud as thunder. Here is what things were like this morning at the Likud ministerial meeting:

[Correspondent Yig'al Goren] All the members of the Likud ministerial forum were summoned to consultations with Mr. Shamir on the morning following the government's collapse; however, only the ministers close to Shamir actually arrived. Ministers Levi and Moda'i were absent. Levi conducted a separate meeting of his supporters. During the meeting, the ministers discussed the question of how to establish a narrow Likud-led government; whether the unity government still can be salvaged; and what price the ultraorthodox factions will demand in return for their support of the next government. At the end of the meeting, the ministers associated with Mr. Shamir kept silent. On Sunday the ministers will conduct another meeting in which they will decide to recommend President Herzog entrust Mr. Shamir with establishing the next government.

[Begin Tourism Minister Patt recording] Mr. Shamir is the Likud's elected candidate and the Likud's chairman. By virtue of his standing, he is the Likud's candidate to head any Likud government. There has been no change in this decision, and no one contemplates any changes at this time, in these days. The prime minister made his opinion on the various issues very clear. We convened for many hours today, and the issue is not even on the agenda. [end recording]

[Begin Minister Magen recording] There is only one of two alternatives. Either a national unity government, or new elections. I do not believe either the Alignment or the Likud will succeed in establishing a narrow-based government, and if one of these two parties does manage to bring this off, this government's life span will be absurdly short, and we will have to conduct elections anyway. If this is how things stand, then it is preferable to immediately conducting elections. I nevertheless hope that following the Sabbath, whoever has to come to his senses will do so, in all the parties, and that the national unity government can be salvaged after learning our lessons from its breakup. [end recording]

[Begin Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu recording] The crucial questions regarding Jerusalem and the future of the state, questions that were not highlighted so clearly in the last election campaign, cannot be decided by parliamentary tricks. The public must decide. To avoid this spectacle in which factions and fractions of factions decide the fate of the world, the fate of this country, without asking the public, then we must ask the people and change the system of government. [end recording]

[Goren] Following the meeting, it transpired that Prime Minister Shamir is not even considering reaching conclusions, and he is determined to lead the Likud the next time around.

Shamir on Coalition's Downfall

TA1703093490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan on 16 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Prime Minister Shamir, what should I say to you now? Should I extend my condolences?

[Shamir] No, I am not in mourning, and therefore not in need of consolation. Wish me a good rest this Saturday, because hard and exhausting work will begin on Sunday.

[Golan] Will you have a good rest indeed? Will you not think perhaps about where you might have gone wrong, how you came to be in this situation—the first prime minister whose government was toppled in a no-confidence vote in the Knesset?

[Shamir] I know many prime ministers who resigned or quit their duties; it makes no difference how one leaves his position. There is nothing eternal in politics; you may be a prime minister today and another person tomorrow. The main point though, is to continue to act and fight for the really important issues.

[Golan] What will you be tomorrow, Mr. Shamir? Will you continue to lead the Likud even if you try to set up a new government, or have you had it with this entire game and so will go home after the caretaker government's term?

[Shamir, laughing] I will continue my activity and battle. I have no reason to stop it all. I have many more things to do. There still are many goals I should achieve. I will work and fight, together with the Likud. I think we have a long and difficult, but also very successful, road ahead.

[Golan] Yesterday you could have saved the government and prevented the vote of no confidence in the Knesset had you agreed to say yes to Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's proposal, namely, to say yes to Baker. Why, in fact, did you not agree to guarantee Baker a positive response within one week?

[Shamir] I do not surrender to ultimatums, not from rabbis, nor from ministers or party members, including my own party members. If I had been able to agree to the demand included in Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's proposal, I could have done that a few days earlier, during the Inner Cabinet meeting. I act according to my understanding, feelings, and the information I possess, and do not mix interpartisan politics with political positions. I need to be convinced, I need to believe I do the right thing. If I have this faith and conviction, this is how I operate. If I am not convinced, or, conversely, if I believe the opposite is correct, I cannot be influenced by any ultimatum or pressure before or after votes.

[Golan] In other words, at some stage you, Mr. Shamir, understood that the Alignment and the Americans were leading you with the peace initiative to places you did not want to go, and in fact, you decided to stop everything.

[Shamir] No one is leading me. These are prefabricated stories prevailing in the media. This is not a question of being led by someone, perhaps this person today and another person tomorrow. We are discussing processes here. These are difficult processes with stops on the way, with turns and curves. The issues at hand are serious, and a decision should be made about every move. It is not as if you decided one day to follow a certain direction, and suddenly decided to stop. This is not true. We are conducting negotiations with the Americans and the Egyptians. We likewise conduct internal talks and make decisions according to all available data and considerations.

[Golan] In other words, are we to expect a positive reply to Baker now? Are we to expect a continuation of the peace process during the term of the caretaker government as well?

[Shamir] There are numerous questions and answers. It is not true there is a single question, the answer to which is the key to the continued implementation of the peace initiative. This is not true. There are many issues and matters that should be discussed with Baker, the Palestinians, the Egyptians, and between the Likud and the Alignment; they cannot be boiled down to only a single question. This is sort of an artificial exaggeration that people have become hung up about and think about and want to present all matters as being dependent on this word [saying yes to Baker]. This is not so.

[Golan] What view do you take today about the advice you received from Minister Moshe Nisim? Rabin used a harsh term, calling him the undertaker of the national unity government. Others talked of Ahithophel [2 Samuel, 15:12: King David's counselor who gave false advice to Absalom, the king's rebellious son], advice which you received. Do you believe you received sound counseling from your colleagues?

[Shamir] I never in my life have called anyone an undertaker, and do not understand how this can be done. What did Moshe Nisim do to Yitzhaq Rabin that he insults him in such a disgraceful manner? Why should Rabin pay attention to every bit of gossip and pounce on a person whose sole sin was to say what he thinks? Furthermore, do I not do anything without the advice of Ahithophel or others? Each one of us gives and receives advice, and finally decides according to his own understanding. It therefore is ridiculous to present any political or public activity as if it were a ball game, with the ball being received from one player or another. This is ludicrous and does not reflect the situation. This is not characteristic of the people engaged in political activity, and only gives the public a sort of distorted and preposterous picture that undermines its trust in the people acting on its behalf.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, you said you would like and intend to continue to lead the Likud and to set up a new government under your leadership. We hear voices, in Agudat Yisra'el for example, that do not rule out the Likud, but do rule out any business with you.

[Shamir] Look, this is a repetition of prattle from the same people. You cannot list more than two or three such voices, more than two or three people who express themselves so: one or two in Agudat Yisra'el, and one or two in the Likud. These single voices leave no impression on me. It is the Likud itself that will determine the Likud's leadership. The Likud has institutions, and I will not be angry with anyone if one day these institutions convene and decide the movement's leader should be replaced. I will not be angry or furious. You know, I have a great deal of experience. I have had many experiences and changes, and nothing can surprise me any longer. Still, I would like everything to be done with decency and fairness, out of good intentions and a wish to serve the true cause. I would especially like to see everything done based on truth and facts. The public in Israel is fed by fragmentary rumors and gossip. I do not have any misunderstanding or conflicts with the Likud.

[Golan] Still, you have the constraints people, Ministers Levi and Moda'i and Knesset Member Sharon. What if they say it is preferable to be in power without Shamir than to be in the opposition with Shamir?

[Shamir] Anyone who so wishes, let him try. If they want this, they can come to the Likud institutions and raise a proposal to this effect. Then the ones to choose and decide who should lead the Likud are not Agudat Yisra'el members or SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] activists, but members of the Central Committee and other bodies of the Likud.

[Golan] In conclusion, Mr. Shamir, how do you sum up your recent period? Those must have been difficult days for you.

[Shamir] I cannot remember easy days. Throughout the years of my activity on behalf of the public, of the people, I have not had easy days. All those days in which I have served the people and the country were full of hard work, experiences, tests, and cooperation with a great number of people. I have lots of friends and colleagues who covered some sections of this road with me in different periods. To this day I maintain excellent relations with these people who belong in those different periods.

There has been a special nature to these past few days. These are days of close relations and cooperation with people from different walks of life, climates, and circles. It therefore is no wonder you are sometimes surprised or disappointed with someone who, you suddenly learn, has cheated you. For all the talk I hear, I never have cheated anyone, except for Israel's enemies at times.

[Golan] Who cheated you, sir?

[Shamir] Well, I do not want to quarrel with anyone today. It does not pay to quarrel. Let me state I only am doing those things that can benefit the cause I serve.

[Golan] Do you already think of what you want written about yourself in history books?

[Shamir] This does not concern me at all. I will be at peace if I know the truth will be written.

Shamir Still Leads Likud

TA1703124390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] The Likud faction will convene at 2100 [1900 GMT] this evening, and our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports it will discuss the recommendation the Likud delegation will make to the president of the state on its candidate for forming the next government. The Likud delegation is slated to call on the president at 1200 [1000 GMT] tomorrow.

Sara Doron, the chairman of the Likud faction, told our correspondent the discussion was requested by faction members. She emphasized the Likud Central Committee's decision is unchanged, whereby Yitzhaq Shamir is its candidate for prime minister, and in any event, the faction is not authorized to change the decision. Minister David Levi canceled a meeting of his supporters due to the faction meeting.

In the meantime, Knesset Members Eliyahu Ben-Elisar and Re'uven Rivlin have called on their faction not to recommend Yitzhaq Shamir as a candidate for forming the next government. MK Rivlin says recommending Shamir will be tantamount to admitting the Likud does not want to form the next government since the ultraorthodox are opposed to Shamir.

Shamir Urged To Resign

TA1703134090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction is due to convene tonight while tension seethes within the prime minister's camp against the background of Yitzhaq Shamir's decision to continue with business as usual, as though nothing has happened. Various sources in Shamir's camp said he should resign from the Likud leadership and convene the party's Central Committee in order to launch the battle for leadership of the party.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz pointed out the criticism leveled at Shamir came from within his own camp and was expressed by people who marched alongside him during all the recent struggles. A group within the Shamir-Arens camp asserted Moshe Arens must lead the Likud. A different group, on the other hand, feels the aspersions cast on Shamir promote David Levi's candidacy.

Prime Minister Shamir this morning said the voices calling for his replacement are nothing but idle chatter.

Arens Supports Shamir

TA1703173190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said he would not lend his hand to the plot to topple Yitzhaq Shamir. Arens told our political correspondent Arye Golan this evening he supports Yitzhaq Shamir and does not think there is room for any cabal against him. Arens asserted what he termed party self-analysis should be left for another time.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz added the prime minister is holding consultations with several of the ministers associated with him, preparatory to the Likud Knesset faction meeting this evening at Likud headquarters. Tonight's meeting is dedicated officially to a discussion of political developments, but our correspondent was told that various elements, including members of the Shamir camp, intend to demand the prime minister permit others to contest the Likud leadership.

The five members of the Party for the Advancement of the Zionist Ideal also were invited. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports the five Knesset members [MK's] are now deciding whether to accept the invitation, which some of them reject.

Sources within the Alignment faction this evening said if President Herzog entrusts Shim'on Peres with forming a government, he will agree to invite the Likud to join a national unity government. The Alignment's negotiating team—MK's Peres, Rabin, Edri, Harish, and Ramon—is to resume contacts with the various factions this evening. Our correspondent learned the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] faction, which will meet with the president tomorrow afternoon, will recommend establishment of a national unity government.

No Likud Demand Against Shamir

TA1703202590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The Likud Knesset faction this evening convened at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv to discuss the political situation before the various party representatives are summoned to President Herzog. No demand to replace Yitzhaq Shamir with another candidate was raised. Internal Likud tensions, however, certainly will cast a shadow on the upcoming discussions.

The religious parties meanwhile have agreed not to recommend the president entrust Shamir with the formulation of the new government. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports there is no unanimity among the religious parties regarding their candidate. The NRP [National Religious Party] tends toward recommending new elections, while SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] is leaning toward a national unity government. [passage omitted]

Sharon, Likud Support Shamir

TA1803063090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Excerpts] After a long time, once again the Likud choir is singing with one voice. Late last night the Likud Knesset faction decided the candidate it will recommend to President Herzog is Yitzhaq Shamir and he alone, and the Likud will not join an Alignment-led government, even if it is a national unity government. The surprise came when Ari'el Sharon turned out to be Shamir's chief supporter. David Levi's associates claim that through this move, Sharon wants to drag the Likud into the opposition at whatever cost. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

[Begin Raz recording] Even those Likud members who intended to level criticism ultimately gave their blessing. In public, hardly anyone called on Yitzhaq Shamir to reach personal conclusions. Shamir himself did not attend the meeting. Late last night the Likud Knesset faction—all the ministers and Knesset members—came out in support of Shamir. What all of them have in mind is a government led by the Likud and Shamir, and they do not intend to be part of an Alignment-led government, as Minister Roni Milo told us. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Last night Ari'el Sharon came out with a new tune, calling on the Likud to rally around a new political plan. Sharon was sorry some Likud members already had begun knocking on the doors of Peres and Rabin. Sharon said the constraints camp still exists, but hopes there will be no need for it. Shlomo Raz spoke with Ari'el Sharon at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv late last night.

[Begin recording] [Sharon] For many months I and my colleagues struggled to attain several principles, and cautioned against a downhill deterioration. Finally, at the last moment, but a little too late, the prime minister consciously stopped in his tracks. He was prepared to have the government fall and lose his position as prime minister by insisting on those principles with which we tried for months to persuade our colleagues. Therefore, anyone with even a little dignity should realize this attests to some strength. So, at such a time, should we not support a person who was prepared to fall over the principles we struggled for? That is the reason for my support.

[Raz] But even within the Likud various people have been heard to say that in order to remain in power, Yitzhaq Shamir should be replaced.

[Sharon] If we were deterred by every word being said, we would get nowhere. Having said that, I think many mistakes were made in the past, but now we are at a new stage. Today I called for opening a new chapter, crossing out the past, and rallying around a new political plan. Under no circumstances whatsoever should we go back to the Baker plan. If we tread this path, we definitely will attain unity.

[Raz] Mr. Sharon, you claim some Likud members are trying to join Peres. Who exactly do you have in mind?

[Sharon] I will not mention any names. In the meeting I said I was sorry less than 24 hours after the government's fall, and at a time when we should all have stood together as one, some of our colleagues already had begun knocking on the doors of Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin, both of whom caused the government's fall. Why did the government fall? The government fell because it insisted on the principles we had been preaching for. Why are they running to Shim'on Peres? Do they think Shim'on Peres is going to accept the Likud's positions? Where are they running?

[Raz] Are you referring to Yitzhaq Moda'i, who went along with you part of the way?

[Sharon] You are absolutely wrong. I mean totally different people.

[Raz] Mr. Sharon, what about the contest within the Likud over the party's candidate for the premiership? Has it been called off or postponed? In which forum will it be conducted?

[Sharon] We are not facing a Knesset election today. There is a party list in which people were placed according to a certain order. Were we to conduct an election now, that list would be canceled and new people would be elected. I suppose several candidates would postulate themselves. I have on more than one occasion said I would be one of the candidates. But that is not the situation at present, as we are not having elections. We have completed one-third or almost one-half of this Knesset term, and we have not yet reached that point.

[Raz] Does your statement of support for the prime minister actually spell the end of the constraints camp?

[Sharon] Not at all. I hope there will be no further need for a constraints camp, because I expect that in the wake of our resolution today, the government will abandon the Baker plan. After all, that was the reason for the government's fall. Why did the government fall? The government fell over the abandonment of the Baker plan. If the need does not arise, the constraints camp will not be necessary. I suggest that on this issue, too, we wait patiently and see what happens.

[Raz] Here is the last question: Is the Likud going to the opposition?

[Sharon] I do not propose to make any unequivocal statements on the matter. A lot depends on us, on standing united, closing our ranks, and making a great effort. We do have a chance to form a government, but very arduous efforts will be required. [end recording]

Peretz Leaves SHAS

TA1803095990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0948 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Report by Ze'ev Kohen outside the Prime Minister's Office—live]

[Text] We promised a dramatic announcement from Minister Yitzhaq Peretz in our earlier newscast, and here it is: Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, chairman of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], today informed Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, president of the Council of Torah Scholars, that in the wake of all the developments pertaining to the vote of no confidence in the government, he no longer sees himself as part of SHAS. A notice to this effect has been sent to the Council of Torah Scholars and to Knesset Member Yosef 'Azran, chairman of SHAS's Knesset faction.

Alignment Recommends Peres

TA1803101690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] The Alignment delegation called on President Hayim Herzog earlier today and recommended to him he entrust Shim'on Peres with the task of forming the government. One of the delegates, Mikha Harish, said his party does not rule out the possibility of establishing a new unity government if agreement is reached with the Likud concerning the promotion of the peace process. A similar view was voiced by Hayim Ramon, while Ora Namir objected to a broad-based government. The Likud delegates will be the next to call on the president.

Likud Recommends Shamir

TA1803111690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] The Likud delegation has recommended to President Hayim Herzog that he entrust Yitzhaq Shamir with the task of forming a government. Sara Doron, the head of the delegation, said the Likud would not join a broad-based government led by the Alignment. The delegation pointed out to the president that the coalition agreement commits the two major parties to take action to disband the Knesset and call an early election.

Likud Ministers Meet

TA1803125590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Report by Ze'ev Kohen at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Excerpts] The meeting of the Likud ministers ended a short time ago. The ministers proceeded to their own offices, and most of them refused to talk to the press. Now is the time to do rather than to talk, they said. Minister Ehud Olmert nevertheless told us that the Likud ministers would make a concentrated effort to form a government led by the Likud. [passage omitted]

Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon was also invited to the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, the prime minister thanked his colleagues for the confidence and renewed trust they had placed in him and said it strengthened his desire to pursue his cause. Shamir said that if the Likud had not passed such a resolution yesterday, this could have been a blow to the Likud, its political positions, and its public standing. The prime minister welcomed the establishment of a committee to hold the negotiations with the religious parties. The Likud must invest every possible effort so as to be able to form the new government.

Earlier, the Cabinet held its weekly session which was attended by the National Religious Party and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] ministers. [passage omitted]

The Cabinet session was devoted to the issue of unemployment, which has increased by 39 percent in the last year. Minister Roni Milo said this problem is no less important than a response to Baker, because it pertains to Israel's strength.

This was the first Cabinet session in its capacity as a caretaker government. One must bear in mind that the prime minister is substituting for nine other ministers, admittedly a tough job whose duration depends on the life span of the caretaker government. The prime minister will apparently have to delegate authority to some of his colleagues seeing that no ministers can be appointed to a caretaker government. [passage omitted]

Further on Peretz Decision

TA1803132690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Minister Yitzhaq Peretz says he will not go back on his resignation from SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and that all efforts of persuasion will be in vain. Interviewed on the midday newsreel, Rabbi Peretz said he does not plan to join any other party. He added that by taking the step it took last week, SHAS had made all possible mistakes. According to him, he tried to prevent this unjustified step, but was shrugged off. I do not know who led this step, Peretz said, but whoever it was, it was a wrong move; SHAS will pay a heavy price for it because it will not be able to face its constituents, who feel they have been misled.

Peretz added that SHAS's move had hurt the image of Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, Rabbi Schach, and a vast number of SHAS supporters because all the party's messages in the election campaign had been right-wing ones. Peretz added he nevertheless would not question the actions of Rabbi Yosef, whom he still appreciates and admires.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen has just reported that Yehezqel Sehayek, secretary of the SHAS movement, and Eli Suissa, member of the SHAS secretariat, also have resigned.

Rabbi Peretz currently is conferring with Rabbi Yosef and will confer with Prime Minister Shamir this afternoon. Our correspondent points out Minister Peretz cannot quit the government because of its caretaker status, and does not intend to quit the Knesset.

SHAS's Knesset faction met at noon today to discuss Rabbi Peretz' resignation. At the end of the meeting, Minister Arye Der'i said he was surprised, astonished, and very sorry. He said he hoped Rabbi Peretz would withdraw his resignation. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 18 March reports "Minister Yitzhaq Peretz promised Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef he would reconsider his decision to resign from SHAS. Following their meeting, Rabbi Peretz said he had explained his motives to Rabbi Yosef. Peretz said Yosef had appealed to him not to resign, but he had replied he could not revoke his decision. Rabbi Yosef beseeched him again, however, and then out of deference to the rabbi, Peretz promised to reconsider his decision and deliver a final answer within a few days. Nevertheless, Rabbi Peretz told our correspondent Yo'el Nir he would find it hard to go back on his step."]

SHAS members, headed by Minister Der'i, currently are conferring with Prime Minister Shamir.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports the National Religious Party congratulated Minister Yitzhaq Peretz for his resignation, and called on him to join its ranks.

SHAS for Likud Leadership

TA1803172690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] A delegation of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] representatives met a short while ago with President Herzog. Knesset Member [MK] Ya'ir Levi after the meeting told our political correspondent Arye Golan the delegation recommended the president impose the task of forming a government on a Likud representative with the best chance of making up a government that will promote peace. According to him, the delegation did not name any one person. The Likud is the one that has to decide, and SHAS will be glad to cooperate with it.

MK Ya'ir Levi added the reason for the way his party acted in the no-confidence vote was their reluctance to support a government that said no to peace. Now they hope the new government will say yes to peace.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that in 30 minutes, Prime Minister Shamir will meet with representatives of Degel Hatora, whom he will ask to recommend that the president entrust him with forming the government.

POST on Peace 'Setback'

TA1803085490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Setback to Peace"]

[Text] The glee at the White House is palpable. Administration officials are telling friends and followers that they are on the way to achieving a goal which eluded four previous administrations ever since the Rogers plan, a full Israel withdrawal from the "occupied territories." Through adroit maneuvering, they feel they have created a situation in which a Labour Party no longer committed to the Alon plan and willing to negotiate the establishment of a Palestinian state with the PLO can now form a viable government which will surrender "the territories."

It is difficult not to admire the foresight, forcefulness and single-mindedness with which the American players have pursued this goal. Believing that previous American failures to achieve a settlement were caused by the exclusion of the PLO from the peace process, they obtained the cooperation of lame-duck Secretary of State Shultz in arranging talks with the PLO even before President Bush assumed power. Then, knowing that the majority of Israelis still opposed negotiations with the PLO, they agreed with Mubarak that Egypt would act as a PLO proxy.

From then on, nothing was allowed to deflect them from their goal. When Premier Shamir brought a four-point peace plan to Washington, they accepted it as "the only game in town." They then promptly discarded the first three points, which called for full normalization of Egypt-Israel relations and for steps towards liquidating the refugee camps and ending the state of war with the rejectionist Arab regimes. In this, Mr. Shamir, as well as his foreign minister, acquiesced. With the exception of a few feeble attempts to remind the Administration of these points, essential to Israel's security, they permitted themselves to be cornered into negotiating the election proposal exclusively.

The Administration was helped, too, by Labour's insistence on conducting its own foreign policy. Maintaining separate contacts with the State Department, the Egyptian President and his ambassador to Israel and with representatives of the PLO, Labour constantly outbid the Likud. The Administration was thus able to focus on the fourth point of the Shamir Plan, and to convert it from a blueprint for local elections without PLO participation into an opportunity to introduce the PLO into the proceedings. This would make their results a foregone conclusion and peripheral to negotiations for Israeli withdrawal.

To get Israel to the negotiating table under these circumstances, the Administration had either to "bend" Shamir or replace him. It spared little effort in the attempt. It encouraged the furore over the alleged "Israeli connection" with Colombian drug lords and Panama's strongman Noriega; it orchestrated, with Senate minority leader Robert Dole, repeated threats of cuts in the aid programme; it conditioned loan guarantees for the absorption of Soviet immigrants on the cessation of all settlement activities; it absolved the PLO of any involvement in terrorism in the face of overwhelming, irrefutable evidence to the contrary; it instructed its agents in "the territories" to step up organizational and political work among Palestinian Arabs, and its diplomats to refer to the Jerusalem suburbs of Ramot and Gilo as "occupied territories," and it launched an investigation into the legality of settlement. (This was quickly aborted when a preliminary report made it obvious that the "settlements" in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza could be found illegal only if all precepts of international law were turned on their head.) Finally the President himself declared that the settling of Jews in "occupied" East Jerusalem should be forbidden.

Shamir, all primed to go to Cairo, felt he could no longer do so without assurances from Labour on a common stand regarding Jerusalem and PLO participation. Labour seized the opportunity to precipitate a showdown, counting on the long-simmering craving for revenge against Shamir in the ultra-Orthodox parties to bring down the government. Labour may now form a government which the Administration will find much easier to deal with. Chalk it up as a Bush-Baker success after 15 months of hard work.

What the Administration fails to understand is that a party which has been unable to win an election in the past 13 years will find it difficult to lead Israel to peace. A Labour government may set precedents of negotiating with the PLO from which later governments will find it difficult to withdraw, but without a national consensus there can be no peace. If the Administration was looking for a dramatic success, it got what it wanted. But if it is sincerely interested in peace, it may come to view the present victory as a fateful setback to the process.

CRM Recommends Peres

TA1803181490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] The last party to have met with the president today was the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], whose representatives recommended the president task Shim'on Peres with forming the new government.

CRM members told our correspondent Nava Kohen, however, that in view of the developments in SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and that party's recommendation, Peres' chances of forming a government headed by him now are unclear.

Alignment Appeals Decision

TA1803201690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] The Alignment faction in the Knesset has appealed to the High Court of Justice, requesting the

Cabinet be ordered to reinstate the 11 Alignment ministers. The faction claims Attorney General Harish's interpretation of the term "on the day" was mistaken, and that the Cabinet resignation on the day of the no-confidence vote [16 March] becomes valid on midnight of the beginning of that day. The ministers hence already were officiating in the caretaker government when the Knesset endorsed the no-confidence motion.

Supreme Court Justice Eli'ezer Goldberg referred the appeal to a three-judge panel and instructed it to conduct a session this week.

Constraints Group on Likud Team

TA1803202590 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] The Likud has set up a negotiating team aimed at forming a Likud-led government. The team includes, among others, members of the constraints group: Ari'el Sharon, David Levi, and Yitzhaq Moda'i. Today the three, along with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Ministers Nisim, Arens, and Qatzav, participated in negotiations with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], Agudat Yisra'el, and the National Religious Party.

The decision to include the constraints group in the negotiating team was made after the Likud agreed Yitzhaq Shamir is its candidate for forming the government.

2 More Groups Support Peres

TA1903094190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 mar 90

[Text] Consultations at the presidential residence over the candidate to be the next prime minister continue. The president currently is in session with the three MAPAM [United Workers Party] representatives, who announced before the meeting they would recommend Shim'on Peres.

Prior to that, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] also recommended Peres, while the members of the Progressive List for Peace said they are prepared to support an alliance that would block the Likud, and if the votes for Shamir and Peres are even, Peres will be their candidate.

Reportage on Former President Carter's Visit

Peres Comments on Meeting

TA1803173690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres this afternoon met with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Shim'on Peres after the meeting told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that although Carter brought no message from the Syrian president, he [not further specified] believes talks with Damascus soon will be launched. In any event, Carter's re[port implied Damascus no longer will interfere with the] negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Peres added Carter's [talks in Amman point to the possibility that if pro]gress is made in talks with the Palestinians, Jordan w[ill join the dialogue. According to him, Carter expressed] the hope whatever government is formed in Israel will [promote the peace process. Peres noted Carter abstaine]d from supporting either an Align-ment- or a Likud-led [government.

Confe[rs With Shamir

TA1803182890 Jerusa[lem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Mar 90]

[Text] The prime min[ister said Israel is ready to pursue its political initiative—]without, however, the deviations into which some elem[ents are attempting to coerce it, according to him. M]r. Shamir made these remarks during a meeting with [former President Jimmy Carter.

Shamir stated Israel's [commitment to the tenets of Camp David is absolute, a]nd that its initiative, founded on these tenets, remains v[alid. The claims Israel is directing Soviet immigrants to] Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are nothing but lies, he [noted, but the question of the immigrants' residenc]e in Jerusalem has nothing to do with that issue.

The two men exchang[ed views on the democratic process in Israel, with the prim]e minister saying electoral reform in Israel is desirable. [He regrets the two major parties have not reached an a]greement on the direct election of the prime minister, so[mething which would have averted several recent phenom]ena.

Levi on [Talks Participation

TA1903113790 Jerusa[lem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1]8 Mar 90

["Communicated by t]he Construction and Housing Ministry spokeswoma[n"—GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE subslug]

[Text] Deputy Prime [Minister and Minister of Construction and Housing Da]vid Levi and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter met in [Jerusalem today, 18.3.90, for a 45 minute discussion.

Deputy Prime Minis[ter Levi emphasized the difference between the Camp] David Accords and the elections initiative in the terri[tories and the dangers of negotiations with the PLO. T]he minister clarified that while the Camp David Accor[ds were preceded by negotiations conducted between] two sovereign states, today we are being called upon to [conduct negotiations with an organization which has t]he elimination of Israel engraved in its covenant. The mi[nister said: "I would expect the U.S. to make an effort t]o bring Israel and Jordan to the negotiating table and [only thus shall we be able to solve the remainder of the] problems in our region."

Update on Incidents in Territories 18 Mar

TA1903100090

[Editorial Report] In a report by Joel Greenberg and news agencies on page 8, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 19 March writes that, according to Palestinian sources, "three people were wounded, one of them seriously" in "clashes" which broke out yesterday at the al-Am'ari refugee camp "in response to news" of the death of a man who had been wounded by a rubber bullet last week.

"The body of a Palestinian was found yesterday at the West Bank village of Shaykh Sa'd, near Jabal al-Mukabar. The corpse reportedly bore stab wounds, but was not immediately identified."

According to Arab reports, "in Hebron about 50 masked activists armed with axes and knives stopped cars and slashed the tyres of at least 10 vehicles that defied the strike" called by the Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement.

"In clashes yesterday with troops in the territories, 14 Palestinians were reported wounded, including an 18-year-old said to be in critical condition after being hit in the head with a plastic bullet during clashes in Gaza.

"In Nabulus, troops dispersed young supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine masked by red keffiyehs, who broadcast loudspeaker calls against tomorrow's Islamic Jihad strike. A 14-year-old was wounded by a plastic bullet, residents said."

"At the al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, masked members of a local 'strike force' beat and injured Muhsin Abu-'Attawi, 40, whom they suspected of 'cooperating' with the Israeli authorities, Palestinians said."

"In Hebron yesterday, a policeman was hurt when his car overturned after it was stoned, passengers of the car said."

In a report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin on page 3A, Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 19 March reports "an 18 year old was seriously wounded in a violent clash between students and border policemen in Gaza's Falastin school and was taken to Shiba Hospital." An Israeli Army spokesman said the boy had been "the chief inciter" in the incident and added hospitals in the Gaza Strip had reported "only one Arab casualty."

According to Palestinian sources, "eight people were wounded in the same area and elsewhere in the Gaza Strip in clashes with border policemen. The hand of one of the casualties had to be amputated, and another casualty was a 12-year-old boy from Khan Yunus."

According to "unofficial military sources," "clashes erupted in various locations in the Gaza Strip yesterday, most of them staged by school students."

"Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration, yesterday summoned school principals and education officials for a talk. They decided to reopen two schools in the al-Shati' refugee camp which had been ordered closed in the wake of disturbances."

In a report by Roni Shaqed, David Regev, and Tamar Trabelsi on page 12, Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 19 March writes "the Army recently has adopted a new punitive policy whereby heavy fines are imposed on stone throwers. The new policy was adopted after the incarceration of stone throwers proved ineffective because the prisons became a 'school' for violent activities.

"The new policy will be executed by the prosecutors and the military courts in the territories. Based on it, fines ranging from 1,500 to 3,000 new Israeli shekels have recently been imposed on the parents of minors and youngsters caught throwing stones."

AL-NAHAR Publishes Islamic Jihad Statement

NC1603145690 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
16 Mar 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] The "Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine Organization" yesterday threatened it will attack all (?structures) that facilitate the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. It emphasized it will not release its three American hostages unless its demands are met.

AL-NAHAR received a statement and a color Polaroid photo of hostage Alann Steen at 2048 last night. The paper also received an identical statement which was sent to an international news agency and a similar photo of Robert Polhill. The organization condemned media reports about some groups' movements to effect the release of foreign hostages being held in Lebanon, calling on these people not to interfere and noting that the only solution to the issue is as "part of an exchange."

It is worth noting that the organization, which earlier had claimed responsibility for kidnapping Steen, Polhill, and their colleague Jesse Turner from where they work at Beirut University College in January 1987, had issued a statement demanding the release of 400 Arabs who are being held in Israeli prisons as an exchange. However, this was not concluded. Following is the text of the statement that AL-NAHAR received:

In view of recent serious developments in Soviet Jews' emigrating to Israel, and in light of certain [word indistinct] in the hostage issue, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine Organization [word indistinct] to our people, the revolutionary liberals, the various parties in the Palestinian arena, and to all the states involved in conspiring against our people to clarify the facts and declare the following stands:

First, with the awakening of the Muslim masses in the region, specifically the reawakening of our Muslim people inside where struggling movements are supporting our blessed intifadah, the actual end of the Zionist state has started, and the heretic and shameless ideologies and creeds (both rightist and leftist) have fallen. Once again Islam can emerge as a pioneer and a fatal weapon which eradicates the Nazi Zionists and the inevitable truth about Israel's [word indistinct] termination and eradication has [word indistinct] before the entire world.

[Words indistinct] in the east and west in order to save it, consolidate its pillars, provide it with the means to survive, and give it the necessary effective support to annihilate our remaining Muslims and force them to immigrate. The wicked conspiracy to settle Soviet Jews in Palestine follows this path. Both America and the Soviet Union have unmasked their dirty faces and their hostility toward our people. They are seeking to protect the Zionist Nazi state however they can.

We also point out that the declared figures for Jewish immigrants are not correct, but are much smaller than the actual figures. The United States, by displaying public opposition to settling these immigrants in Palestine, is attempting to mislead world public opinion. It is making justifications and [words indistinct] negative stands by some Arab and Islamic countries so these countries will absorb their people's resentment against them and against the United States. The United States is the party chiefly responsible for this immigration because it exerted pressure on the Soviets, who then submitted to the pressure and became involved in this major conspiracy.

This immigration is the most serious phase of the conspiracy against our people because it is designed to entrench and save the State of Israel and, consequently, to emphasize the scheme of gathering all Jews in Palestine in order to implement the major plan.

Our people will not remain with their hands tied vis-a-vis this conspiracy. We will not merely stand by and watch what is happening. We will begin to take appropriate measures to prevent the arrival of the Soviets. All airports and airlines, and their offices and their planes which assist in transporting these immigrants will become direct targets for us. This is now a warning, a threat, and a promise so all those who have become involved, and those who will become involved in the future, will back down. We will give the appropriate response to the conspirators at the proper time and place.

We also call on all parties to begin making responses and to organize popular activities to explain the implications of this conspiracy.

Second, regarding the hostage issue, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine denounces the media reports about humanitarian moves to release the hostages and close this file. It asks those who are undertaking such moves not to intervene in this matter because we are detaining agents and spies who had become involved in acts directed against our people. They will be liquidated if the American Administration does not respond to our demands.

We have not carried out executions because we are waiting for the appropriate time. We have set the trap and are eagerly waiting for the promised U.S. adventurous act to try to release them by force. We declare that this issue cannot be resolved except through an exchange. This point is not negotiable. Humanitarian efforts must be directed to the proper and useful channels.

Finally the Islamic Jihad appeals to our brothers and friends to stop their bloodbaths and rise to their major responsibilities. We urge them to direct their weapons against the United States and Israel. They must not be tools for the United States and Israel and help them to achieve their aims.

[passage indistinct]

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine Organization.

Al-Huss Wants Al-Khazin To 'Leave' Cabinet

NC1603143590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Political circles still are focusing their interest on the attack on Central Bank Governer Dr. Edmond Na'im. This clash is the first of this type between two official departments. It may eventually lead to the dismissal or resignation of a member of the Al-Huss government.

Prime Minister al-Huss today telephoned Ilyas al-Hirawi and discussed with him the repercussions of the attack on Dr. Na'im and the immediate legal action that should be taken to preclude the repetition of any such incident.

Al-Huss was cited as saying that this attack should not be taken lightly and that the person primarily responsible for the attack should be brought to account. Al-Huss said he would like Minister Ilyas al-Khazin to leave his government, preferably by resignation.

The newspaper AL-SAFIR cited government sources as threatening to start debate on the resignation of Minister al-Khazin and to blame him for the attack which was carried out by some of the internal security forces working for Al-Khazin's office. These sources say the incident was triggered by a dispute between al-Khazin and the Central Bank governor concerning funds for printing new passports.

AL-SAFIR cites Minister al-Khazin as saying he will submit his resignation from the government to competent authorities if he becomes a scapegoat in an incident which is being misconstrued.

Sources close to Al-Khazin gave their account of the incident. They said Al-Khazin tried repeatedly to contact Dr. Na'im to find out why he would not implement Decree No. 91 concerning the allocation of funds for printing the new passports. The Central Bank governer told the UK company that was contracted to print the passports to hold off the printing for one week until he could examine the dossier. Minister al-Khazin found this behavior unacceptable in view of the cabinet's decision to print the passports and to approve the contract. The cabinet had instructed Al-Khazin to sign the contract with the UK printing company.

Al-Khazin then asked his security guards to go to the Central Bank and ask Na'im to come and have a coffee him at the ministry. Al-Khazin told the security officials to insist that Na'im should come with them. Na'im refused to leave with them and said: Whoever wants to see someone should go to him. The security officials insisted that Na'im go with them and the incident developed to the point that Na'im's security guards fired some shots.

Al-Khazin visited Dr. Na'im and said the incident should be forgotten. However, AL-NAHAR newspaper cited well-informed sources that Al-Khazin either should resign or be dismissed. These sources said Dr. Na'im has pressed charges of attempted murder and abduction against Al-Khazin and the officer who carried out the attack. The sources noted the Central Bank will take similar legal action after a meeting of the employees association.

Well-informed sources today said the military investigation judge has issued a detention warrant for the officer who headed the force that went to Na'im's office yesterday.

Al-Huss Leaves Hospital Following Operation

NC1603192690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Today Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss left the American University hospital following the successful surgery he underwent last Monday.

Hizballah Source Comments on Amal Aggression

NC1503074790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] At 2030 yesterday, the Amal Movement attacked Kafr Fila from Jurnaya and Sarba. Clashes ensued between the attackers and the Islamic resistance, and several Amal members were killed or wounded. Amal Movement members shelled the area for 30 minutes so they could evacuate the casualties from the battlefield.

In another development, a Hizballah media official stated: At 0800 yesterday, Amal Movement military groups surrounded one of our centers in Bi'r Hasan, attacking it with machineguns and rockets. Earlier the Amal groups had closed the region's schools and kidnapped some of our brothers in Qasqas, the 'Akka hospital vicinity, and the Sabra hospital vicinity. Amal gunmen in the al-Ansar barracks along the airport road moreover opened fire against Harat Hurayk.

The source added: Yesterday's Amal Movement attacks prove what we earlier emphasized—the goals of such groups are to impose their interests, create a crisis, and displace our people.

Hizballah Issues Statement on Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1603083590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] The inhabitants of Iqlim al-Tuffah staged a sit-in at Government House in Sidon yesterday to protest the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah. A number of officials and key religious and political figures took part in the sit-in.

Hizballah addressed a statement to the inhabitants on the occasion of their sit-in in Sidon. Hizballah reiterated its readiness to respond to every solution that would

resolve the situation which forced the inhabitants to evacuate their areas. It added that resolving the results without attending to the cause of the problem would only prompt the criminals to repeat their crime.

Hizballah went on to say: We are willing to respond to every political initiative that will resolve the problem and stamp out its causes in a radical and comprehensive way. We also have reiterated our readiness to withdraw once a mechanism has been reached to implement the Damascus agreement. We believe this agreement constitutes a healthy basis for solving the dispute with the Amal Movement.

In conclusion, Hizballah said: We are anxious to return the inhabitants to their villages. It is the Amal Movement which is obstructing this return. The movement should shoulder its responsibility in this connection. For our part, we are quite ready to implement everything concerning the issue of our kinfolk's return to their villages. But we will not surrender to the aggressors.

Birri Supports Cease-Fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1603135690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] During his news conference today, Minister Nabih Birri proposed an initiative regarding the conflict between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. He reiterated the Amal Movement's support for the Iqlim al-Tuffah residents' initiative calling for a cease-fire, the withdrawal of the gunmen, and the legitimacy's assuming responsibility in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

Minister Birri stressed the need to implement the security plan in Beirut, al-Awza'i, and up to Khaldah. He added the Amal Movement will abide by this plan, declaring its complete readiness to withdraw all weapons and gunmen and to hand over responsibility to the legitimate forces.

Hizballah Responds to Nabih Birri's Proposal

NC1703093790 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Commenting on Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri's initiative, a responsible Hizballah source has declared that launching initiatives through the media is not conducive to a solution of the existing problem. The source called on Birri to put matters for discussion on the negotiating table so the dispute may be settled peacefully.

The source proposed the following plan:
1. An immediate, comprehensive, and unconditional cease-fire.
2. The return of all displaced people to their villages, especially the inhabitants of the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages.
3. The formation of a joint committee to implement these two points.
4. The formation of a committee made up of Amal and Hizballah members to discuss the mechanism for the withdrawal of all gunmen from the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages. The committee will draw up all details in this connection and agree on the specifications of the alternative force that will control security in Iqlim al-Tuffah. This alternative force will reopen the roads, ensure that they are not controlled by either side, and safeguard the freedom of the resistance and its supply routes.
5. Upon the implementation of the above, the two parties will create a mechanism for the implementation of the Damascus agreement in the presence and with the guarantee of brothers from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic.

'Awn Denies Deadline Set for Mediation Committee

NC1703120690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Michel 'Awn, commander of the military clique, has admitted there is no winner or loser in the ongoing war in the eastern area. He described this war as destructive.

In an interview with French television, 'Awn denied he had set a deadline for ending the work of the mediation committee. He said: We are wisely tackling the situation in the eastern area through dialogue and avoiding violence.

Al-Hirawi Cables Congratulations to Gorbachev

NC1603140190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi sent a cable to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev today in which he congratulated him on his election as president of the Soviet Union and wished him continued success in his undertakings for the welfare of the friendly Soviet people, hoping for the achievement of peace and justice in the world. President al-Hirawi also expressed his very great appreciation for the Soviet position, which calls for the attainment of a just solution to the Middle East problem. He asserted an effective Soviet role in this area would contribute to the achievement of peace and strengthen the movement toward a just solution.

President al-Hirawi noted that Lebanon is today in need of continued Soviet support and in need of efforts to restore security, peace, unity, and complete national sovereignty in Lebanon and to strengthen the national reconciliation process. He also noted his great confidence in President Gorbachev's personal interest in the Lebanese issue, in view of his position and contacts in the international community.

Ibrahimi, French Envoy Ala Arrive in Beirut

NC1703151990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi arrived in Beirut this afternoon. Upon arrival, Ibrahimi declined to make any statement about his visit to Lebanon. But informed

sources said Ibrahimi carries an assessment of the outcome of the Lebanese presidential delegation's visit to the capitals of the higher Arab committee. This assessment recently had been compiled by the Arab ministerial committee in Tunis.

French Ambassador to Lebanon Rene Ala arrived on the same plane.

Ibrahimi Meets President

NC1703185190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi tonight. They discussed the current situation and the latest developments in Lebanon during the 90-minute meeting.

After the meeting, Ibrahimi said: The visit is not a surprise one. Rather, it is part of our task which we are performing on behalf of the Arab tripartite committee. After his excellency the president's visit to the capitals of the higher Arab committee, we agreed I should visit Beirut to review the current situation in Lebanon after the regrettable, painful events in the eastern areas.

Ibrahimi continued: This is my first visit to his excellency the president, and it is natural for me to listen to his excellency's review of the situation. We will hold exchanges with the brothers in the next few days.

On the ongoing clashes in the eastern area, Ibrahimi said: There is no justification for any Lebanese to open fire at another, because all problems among brothers can be solved through dialogue.

Ibrahimi added: Our peace plan is for everyone. None should exclude himself from this plan. These are fixed basic principles. We regret the events in East Beirut the same way we regret the events in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

In response to a question, Ibrahimi said the Arab tripartite committee members are holding consultations to fix a date for the committee's next meeting.

ICRC Oversees Transport of Injured Christians

NC1603084090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Thirty-two injured Lebanese Forces and Lebanese Army personnel left Beirut yesterday for Cyprus. An Italian military aircraft is due to transport them to Italy this morning for treatment at the Italian Government's expense. Among the injured are 25 Army personnel and two civilians from northern and southern al-Matn. They went by ambulances across Nahr al-Kalb to Juniyah port, where 15 injured Lebanese Forces personnel joined them. [all figures as heard]

Two physicians from the Lebanese Forces health department and seven nurses from the Lebanese International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] accompanied the injured personnel in the ambulances, and an ICRC observer supervised the operation. The Lebanese Forces officials initiated the move through contacts with the Italian Government. The Italian Government previously provided medical treatment to another group of injured persons.

Cease-Fire 'Violations' Reported in East Beirut

NC1603125490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Despite the Lebanese Forces' respecting the cease-fire, security violations continued today. The Lebanese Forces positions in Bakish came under intermittent artillery shelling from the opposite Army positions between 1200 and 1245. The Lebanese Forces positions in Sinn al-Fil also came under sniper fire from Shamun building in Hursh Thabit at 1305.

Limited Gunfire Exchange Reported in East Area

NC1703120190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 17 Mar GMT 90

[Text] Guarded calm prevailed on the newly created axes in East Beirut today. Army units of General 'Awn, however, suddenly fired a number of rockets at the Lebanese Forces positions in the Kasrawan ridges, injuring two Lebanese Forces members. The situation grew tense and a limited exchange of gunfire took place.

Seven Reported Dead From Shelling of Township

NC1703151790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The Army's indiscriminate shelling of 'Ajlatun township today set fire to a building. Seven innocent citizens, some of whom belonged to the same family, were killed. [passage omitted]

Guarded calm meanwhile prevailed in the Kasrawan hills following security violations in that area this morning. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Receives Letter From Mikhail Gorbachev

JN1803133090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Zotov in Damascus yesterday. The president received from the ambassador a letter from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev dealing with developments in the Soviet Union and bilateral relations.

Israel's Government Crisis Called 'Sinister Game'

JN1803161290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Purported bipartisan differences in Israel over U.S. Secretary of State Baker's plan have surfaced along with mounting worldwide opposition to the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and their settling in Arab land. This is despite the fact that Baker's plan does not run counter to Israel's policy. We must admit, though, that some people are still being deceived by the game of the so-called differences among Israel's political leaders. But seasoned observers will readily understand what these alleged disagreements are all about.

There is not the least doubt that the reported differences among the leaders of our enemy just do not exist. They see eye to eye on the following fundamentals:

First, neither accepts UN resolutions stipulating a complete withdrawal from the occcupied Arab territory.

Second, each works for and prepares further aggression and expansion.

Third, both are impervious to world opinion and rely solely on an ever-growing military might, thanks to unqualified American support.

Thus, what is being dubbed here and there as a ministerial crisis in the Zionist entity is no more than an old-new game whose rules have been laid down by the two major parties, Labor and Likud. The transparent game aims principally to soften international resistance to the massive Zionist settlement activity brought on by a mass emigration of Soviet Jews, helped along directly by the United States, among others. Zionist history has taught us that there is nothing to choose between Likud and Labor. Indeed, the history of the latter shows it to be just as Zionist and racist as Likud, if not more so. It was while the Labor Party was in office that Isrsel waged war against the Arabs, conquered Arab land, and would not comply with or recognize UN resolutions. Whatever statements the Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres makes every now and then are calculated to gain time, especially when enemy leaders are preparing a new expansionist scheme.

Without a doubt, Israel is now in a more advantageous position because of recent world developments. Ever the opportunist, and aided by Zionist organizations worldwide, Israel stepped in at the right moment to make things go its way. However, had the Arabs put their mind to it, they could have made their presence felt. We believe the Arabs ought not to have let the world Zionist movement and its numerous organizations act unchallanged on the world scene. For the umpteenth time, we repeat that the Arabs have access to such resources that enable them to play a major role in this or that regional or global event. It is no longer acceptable for us to remain mere spectators as dazzling developments unfold in the wider world. The bottom line is that the so-called government crisis in the Zionist entity is a sinister game with potentially unpredictable consequences. We are certain that some anti-Arab project is in the works.

Jewish Settlements Seen as Israeli Plot

JN1203153290 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 7 Mar 90 p 8

[From the "Behind the News" column: "The Right to Self-Determination" by Mustafa al-Faqir]

[Text] It is not important whether this or that state denounces the settlement of Jews in the occupied Arab territories. What is important is to take measures preventing such a settlement. Hundreds of resolutions have been issued by the United Nations and other international forums denouncing the Zionist settlement activities. Despite this, Zionist settlement activity has continued, the settlements have grown in size, and international resolutions remain ink on paper.

We say this because U.S. officials have declared that their administration rejects Jewish settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories. However, this has not stopped the flow of U.S. aid to Israel, which is estimated at $3 billion a year, in addition to other grants, including a $400 million emergency aid package which Israel has requested to help settle the new Jewish immigrants. This comes at a time when the Israeli Government has imposed strict military censorship on all news about the Jewish immigration. At the same time, Western sources have leaked information to the effect that the Shamir government is directing the newcomers to the occupied Arab territories.

In fact, leaders of the Zionist entity have not hidden their expansionist plots. Shamir and others have announced that immigrant Jews have the rights to settle wherever they like, particularly in occupied Jerusalem. Shamir has even explained that Israel needs more space to absorb the newcomers. He did not hesitate to determine that the occupied territories were a suitable place for settlement and an urgent requirement for the plan of Greater Israel. Shamir's statements have caused great concern, not only in Arab circles, but also on the international level. Several countries and governments have denounced the settlement of immigrants in the occupied

Arab territories and consider it a threat to peace and a factor that will further complicate the region's crisis.

Has Israel drawn back from its plots? The answer is no. Enemy leaders have sharply criticized all positions opposed to Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories, and stressed their determination to go ahead with their schemes. Military censorship has been imposed on the news about Jewish immigration with the aim of covering up the settlement activities.

Here, we wonder: How can the Palestinians' right to their lands and homeland be preserved? And who can guarantee that Israel will not expel the Arabs from their country or force them to flee through massacres and bloodbaths? We say that if the Westerners are indeed concerned about peoples' rights, as they claim they are, then they must translate this concern into a tangible reality. For the past 28 months, the Palestinian people have been fighting a fierce war against the Israeli occupation and taking Zionist bullets with their bare chests. They have offered up thousands of victims so far, and the enemy detention camps are full of tens of thousands of Arab youths. However, the Palestinian people are still deprived of their right to self-determination at the time when Westerners and Israel itself advocate the Eastern European peoples' right to self-determination and call for giving Jews the right to emigrate.

Guaranteeing the Palestinian people's rights and entrenching the principles of human rights and the United Nations principles can be achieved by giving the Palestinian people the right to self-determination under international supervision and in accordance with general elections in the occupied Arab territories. The negotiations to hold a Palestinian-Israeli meeting, which have been going on for some time now, all proceed from rejecting the right to self-determination and the establishment of the Palestinian state. The objectives of those contacts do not go beyond guaranteeing some marginal rights for the Palestinians within the framework of Israeli occupation, which means a return to the autonomy plan. In the end, these talks will only benefit Israel, because ending the Palestinian intifadah is set as a condition for them. These negotiations go in circles because they ignore the facts and realities and the ambitions of the Palestinians and Arabs.

Freedom is indivisible. Those who claim to be advocates of human rights cannot have any credibility unless they exercise pressures that will enable the Palestinian people to achieve their self-determination on their homeland.

Al-Asad Receives Visiting Moroccan Minister

JN1703190090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 17 Mar (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Moroccan Cultural Affairs Minister Mohamed Benaissa this afternoon in the presence of Culture Minister Dr. Najah al-'Attar and Moroccan Ambassador in Damascus Driss Dhahhak.

Talks centered on cultural cooperation relations between Syria and the Kingdom of Morocco.

UAE Fund Lends $112 Million for Factories

JN1703182490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1512 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 17 Mar (SANA)—Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, announced that during his visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], he signed three agreements that stipulate that the the National Fund of the Economic and Social Union will offer Syria a $112 million loan.

In a statement today, Dr. al-'Imadi added that these agreements stipulate that the fund will finance the project of rehabilitating the phosphate and fertilizers factory in Homs and the sewerage processes in Aleppo, Homs, and Hamah.

Jimmy Carter Leaves After Three-Day Visit

JN1603125290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife left Damascus this morning after a three-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, directors of the America and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, U.S. ambassador in Damascus and his wife, and the U.S. Embassy staff.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Congratulates Gorbachev on Election

LD1603163390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] The following message has been sent to Moscow by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, addressed to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev:

Dear Mikhail Sergeyevich, I have heard with great pleasure the news of your election as president of the Soviet Union. On behalf of the people and the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and on my own behalf, I convey to you my very best congratulations.

The new political thinking, of which you are the initiator and designer, has opened the way into the hearts and minds of all the world and especially the peace-loving people of Afghanistan. It has earned the Soviet Union and yourself considerable authority and credibility.

Your election as president of the Soviet Union clearly shows that the people of the Soviet Union and your elected representatives explicity defend the new thinking, the reconstruction, and the openness and demand the continuation and deepening of this process. I wish you from the bottom of my heart health and success in fulfilling your great tasks as president, and I wish further victories to the people of the Soviet Union and further consolidation and expansion of the friendly relations between our countries.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

[Dated] Kabul, 25 Howt 1368 [15 March 1990]

Paktin Meets With USSR Ambassador 15 Mar

LD1603110390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0519 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 14, BAKHTAR—Raz Muhammad Paktin, minister of interior, had a meeting today with B.N. Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the USSR to Kabul. They at the meeting talked about the friendly relations existing between the two countries.

Also, Paktin received today in his office the elders of eleventh precinct of Kabul city. At the meeting, the local problems of the said area were discussed. In response, several elders on behalf of the audience spoke at the meeting and expressed their cooperation for the attainment of peace and safeguarding of public order.

Najibullah Delivers Speech to Hazaras, Shiites

LD1603205990 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1631 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Speech by President Najibullah to representatives of commanders of the nine-party alliance, Hazaras, and Shiites at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul on 15 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] I seek refuge from the damned Satan with Allah.

In the name of God, the Compassionate and Merciful. Praise to God, the nurturer of the universe, and peace be upon Muhammad and his offspring and his companions.

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to speak to you representatives, commanders of the nine-party alliance and the leaders of the toiling Hazara nationality and Shiite people today. I believe that the history of Afghanistan has gone through many ups and downs in the course of its evolution. We should not look at the form of those incidents, but should contemplate their essence. Why did an incident take place? The resolution of the problem should have been easy, had I as a person or president been concerned. If ambitions and aspirations had been concerned, then we could have achieved our desires through the Constitution, approved by the Grand Assembly, or through party principles that we had enshrined in the Constitution of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA]. If a person held a position undeservedly we would ask him to leave the position on the grounds of popular opinion, to be replaced by merited persons, that is, to hand work over to people who deserve it, through legal measures. But that is not the question; these pretexts are covers. The real issue is that two policies confront each other: the policy of peace and the policy of war. The lesson of the past 10 years, or if we take the date of the declaration of national reconciliation, the past eight years, brought us to conclude that war cannot resolve any issue. It does not give us anything but destruction, ruin, sorrows, and tears. It has not given us anything but disunity among our Muslim people.

Therefore we took the brave decision to dispose with military confrontation, because nothing could be obtained from it—on the other hand the policy of national reconciliation and national unity should be adapted. [passage omitted]

This policy has not been liked by the historic enemies of Afghanistan. They succeeded in injuring the Afghan nation by spending money on materials and weapons, and by fragmenting our united country. They will not forget those expenditures gratuitously, and without gaining something from it. Therefore they use various methods for the implementation of their historical hostility against the Afghan nation. As an example, on that very day of 16 Hour [6 March], the joint attack of the forces of the regular Pakistani Army, its paramilitary and Saudi Wahhabis, and some armed extremist forces—

which had been planned by the military intelligence of Pakistan—was launched on Jalalabad, threatening the territorial integrity of Pakistan and the disintegration of Afghanistan. You have followed the incidents of Jalalabad; I do not want to occupy your time on this. One year later, exactly on that date, the conspiracy had another form but the same essence: once again the hand of the military intelligence of Pakistan, once again the extremist forces of Gulbuddin, with a number of mercenaries and fundamentalists of our faith who had abandoned their principles, their honor, and their dignity, came together. Once again, what for? First, to cause a bloodbath in Afghanistan, and Gulbuddin had many a time not been ashamed to express that word, and had openly said that he would like to cause a bloodbath in Afghanistan, and had said that an intellectual should not exist any more in Afghanistan, that their children should be destroyed in their cradles, and that their wives should be sold in camps to Wahhabis. Think: What if the incident had happened the other way around, and a group of extremist groups led by Shahnawaz and Gulbuddin, who are thirsty for the blood of the people of Afghanistan, had seized power—what then would the scene have been? Would the words freedom, democracy, the words ensuring the rights of various nationalities, and words of Islamic brotherhood have existed? This is the essence of the issue. We have gained the hostility of the enemies of Afghanistan toward this policy of ours; we should hug our brothers, and there should be no more fratricide on Afghanistan.

We have attracted the hostility of the enemies of Afghanistan toward this policy, when we said that we should embrace our brothers and end the fratricide and killing of Afghans, the killing of Islam. We have attracted the hostility of the enemies of Afghanistan for this reason: when we said that the monopoly of power should not be in the hands of one party. This does not mean that we are hostile toward our party, but we have done our party a considerable favor—that the various parties together, in a sound political contest, should roll up their sleeves and take equal part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, in making Afghanistan beautiful, and in the progress and advancement of Afghanistan. [applause] That is why we announced the political pluralism. [passage omitted]

We have created the incident or revolt of the 7th of Sawr [refers to the revolution of 27 April 1978] On the first night there was a Military Council. Then it was transformed into the Revolutionary Council. When we declared the national reconciliation policy, we gave a legal and legitimate basis for the state. Despite the fact that a long time has passed, we decided to draft a new Constitution. [passage omitted] If we had transformed the Military Council into such a government with a legal and legitimate basis, it was for this reason that once again some people will [word indistinct], and the trend of progress is advancing in the world; the world is moving toward democratic transformation and toward giving rights to the nation and the people. Should we go back and say that we want to create a military council? A military council and with whose participation? Shahnawaz, Sarwar, and Gulbuddin: You saw their savagery before the people and nation of Afghanistan. This is fine if you [Tanay] are angry with Najibullah. You can drop as many bombs as you have. I want to reveal to the people that 1,430 bombs were taken from the weapons dump on the airfield of Bagram. And each bomb weighs a half tonne. That makes the weight of 1,430 bombs equal to 715 tonnes—and this they wanted to drop on Kabul. I tell you this as an example of the savagery. What does it mean to take 1,430 bombs from one dump? A military council under such a leadership would rule who? If you [Tanay and Gulbuddin] become president—if you become supreme commander tomorrow and form a government in Afghanistan—what will be left for you to govern? To rule over ruins? Over graveyards and cemeteries? Over injured and maimed people, and children without hands or legs?

Then after the bloodbath, when Afghanistan is ruined—then they will put our soil, the soil of Afghanistan, before the ancient enemies of Afghanistan, and dastardly hand it over to Pakistani generals, as servants but not as Afghans, for the children of Afghans do not do such things. It is the second time, we tell you with pride, that despite the fact that we declared the national reconciliation policy; despite the fact that the Geneva accords were signed and the limited contingents of the Soviet Union left this country; despite political pluralism, economic pluralism, ideological pluralism, freedom, democracy, one Constitution, one law on elections and guarantees for the legal rights of all the nationalities and tribes; it is the second time, despite all this, that we prevented the separation of Afghanistan, as committed children who are brought up in this soil. [applause] We freed Afghanistan from changing into the fifth province of Pakistan. Time will go by, we might not be here; the history of Afghanistan will be written with free pens; however, the people of Afghanistan are a just people; they know how the nation of Afghanistan was prevented from separating in such a difficult and sensitive historical moment, by foiling various not only national but regional and international conspiracies. And its freedom, independence, and territorial integrity have been protected. We have this honor, that we are trained in your fold as your children.

As Mr. Fukor [not further identified] said, when you, the aware and intelligent people of Hazara, see that [applause], when you see that your country's destiny and your history is in question, then you do not recognize anything else but the honor, dignity, prestige, and pride of this country and soil of Afghanistan. [applause]

It is surprising to me that this question should be asked from all the jihad organizations, from all the Islamic movements of Afghanistan, and from all the freedom-loving and people-loving movements and historians of Afghanistan. There [in Pakistan], there are claims that we don't conduct jihads for the sake of selfishness, ambition, power and government; we have taken the path of Jihad and Islam. However, here, Najibullah

includes in Article 2 of the Constitution that the sacred religion of Islam is the religion of the people of Afghanistan. [passage omitted].

Here [in Afghanistan] Najibullah is proud, for he has come from the Muslim people of Afghanistan and lives among these Muslim people and wants to work alongside these Muslim people and wants to create progress and advancement for the people of Afghanistan with these Muslim people, and he reads the words of the faith—there is no god but Almighty God, and Muhammad is his messenger—and he says his prayers and is fully acquainted with the holy Koran and its translation and its verses and contents, then he [Najibullah] is accused by a number of the extremists of deviating from his path and acting like a hardliner.

On the other hand, Najibullah tells them to come sit and talk in Kaba [in Saudi Arabia]. We will sit in God's house. The opposition says, on the surface, that they want a political solution to the issue of Afghanistan. We want a broad government. We will sit with the representatives of Kabul too, But with Muslim representatives of Kabul. You people can see and judge that now they have sat with a hardliner of Kabul, Gulbuddin. Now the question is these people, according to Mr. Fukor, have beliefs and idealogy; what has happened to their beliefs and ideology? Those who were the most hardline, were portraying themselves as the most hardline [reference to Tanay] Gulbuddin was saying that he does not want to sit with good Muslims of Afghnistan. The alliance of six [six oposition groups in Peshawar] wants to sit with the good Muslims of Afghanistan. Gulbuddin goes and sits with the hardliners. You tell me what the Jihad formations will think about them and what decision they will make about them. What will these commanders inside think about them?

I see a very obvious example of that: You, the commanders inside of the Alliance of Nine, are sitting with us and you have rejected the path of these hypocrites. [applause]

We saw that the struggle was not for the Jihad. It was not for Islam. I have announced several times, before the proud nation of Afghanistan, that they carry out savagery and murder and killing, blinded by ambition, selfishness and power, only for the purpose of obtaining power and property. That is why the people of Afghanistan are happier than ever before about the failed coup d'etat, as I said in another meeting, too. They have understood the entire issue. If the situation had been different, this blood bath would have ended in the hands of the pakistanis without the high cost in human lives, the people of Afghanistan are very good people. You are an example of them, you who are sitting here with me. They will never stand along side oppression and injustice. They will stand alongside righteousness and humanity. [passage omitted]

This threat of bloodbath, this national threat, this religious threat, I ask you honestly, if Gulbuddin were here with Shahnawaz, what sort of a motto should they face with regard to the Hazara people? [as heard] It was only an attack against you. You think if a couple of extremists come here, what will be their attitude toward the neighboring countries? Their standing will merely be determined by selling out to Pakistan and the Wahhabis. If that coup d'etat, engineered by the military intelligence of Pakistan and Wahhabis, had succeeded,it is obvious what their attitude should have been toward the USSR and Iran, especially in light of the democratic trend and the new thinking and perestroyka which have caused some development problems in the Central Asian areas of the Soviet Union, by becoming an agent provocateur at the instigation of Saudi Wahhabis; And, you know about the hostility of the Wahhabis towards Iran. Our vision is broad, our policy has a broad horizon. We say anyone who is Afghan should come to us, and anyone who wins in a sound competition, in elections, in granting the right to the people of Afghanistan, we congratulate them on it. We fully believe that if we were the servants of the people of Afghanistan, they should raise their hands for us. If we were not, we would learn from our mistakes and would prepare ourselves to serve the people of Afghanistan in a better way in order to obtain the standing we deserve in later elections. We will congratulate those who were able to win in that competition and obtain a meritorious position [applause] Although the mujahidin also sometimes talk about elections, they have many times said that there is no room for technocrats, former bureaucrats, Zahir Shah, and others. They were also shocked by this coup d'etat. [passage omitted]

So our relations with our neighbors will also be increased and will strengthen and expand. The West is also confused at the moment about how the Republic of Afghanistan came out of such an incident and whether it will survive or not, and it is trying to find out points of weakness in the aftermath. I am confident that Afghanistan has become stronger by purging the unclean blood from its system. It will become stronger and force others to kneel before its valor. [applause]

My main point is that they are guilty of following this path out of ambition and selfishness. As you are aware, and we have held meetings with most of you and have even discussed this issue in the past, there is no doubt that up to yesterday, the governments had only one formula, and that was to sow seeds of discord and govern. We have said to you, to your representatives and elders, that someone has come for the first time in history and requests that you stop being an alliance of eight and nine, and become one. [applause]

Thanks to God, the process in this direction is going forward successfully, with the high aspiration of the commanders inside the country who managed to establish their congress or their great session in the central regions. They said that they want to get together and create the Party of Islamic Unity of Afghanistan. This had its effect on the formations and their representatives abroad. This process is also going ahead there too. We

hope this results in unity. Our contacts with all these formations are fraternal, friendly, and respectful. And assistance can be given, too, but, if we are not an alliance of one, if we give assistance to any one formation, the other formations asks why didn't you give me assistance. If I give more assistance to one, the other formation says that I give it less assistance. Finally Najibullah will again be accused of carrying out the old formula of sowing discord and governing. We told them to unite and all the legal, lawful, economic, social, cultural, and administrative freedom in the local region and at the level of the central government will be yours. [applause]

I wish success and victory to you people. [passage omitted]

I tell you, during the reign of Zahir Shah and even during the reign of Muhammad Da'ud, they appointed a number of your people as ministers as a show. However, this should not satisfy you. We, too, can promote to the rank of general three or four or 10 persons. [passage indistinct] For God's sake, unite and create a united representative delegation and come and let us sit together and hold a Jirgah, from all the regions of Hazarajat. You should help to solve everything. The methods and styles which deceived you up until yesterday should not appeal to you. I am very happy that I met you. I hope such meetings with your representatives will continue and we should move towards the solution of the basic issues. You have come during this difficult and sensitive moment in the history of Afghanistan, and displayed your solidarity and showed your feelings, understanding, and awareness of humanitarianism. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Success comes from God. [applause]

PDPA Central Committee Convenes Plenum 18 Mar

Announces Expulsions

LD1803171290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The periodical plenum of the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee was convened at 1000 this morning in Kabul to discuss the present situation and future duties of the party in expanding the national reconciliation policy. The plenum continued in a climate of complete party unity and comradely understanding.

Esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of Afghanistan, read the basic report at the plenum. [passage omitted]

Having approved the basic report of the plenum, on behalf of their party organizations the participants expressed hatred for the perpetrators of the conspiracy and reflected and stressed the desires of the people to punish the conspirators.

After talks, discussion, and expression of views on the basic report, the draft of the resolution of the plenum was read by Engineer Nazar Muhammad, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. It was approved unanimously.

The plenum then dealt with organizational matters. The plenum unanimously aproved the promotion of Engineer Nazar Muhammad, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, to be a member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee, and of Muhammad Abrahim, first secretary of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan Central Committee, to membership of the PDPA Central Committee.

The plenum also unanimously approved the expulsion of the following people from membership of the PDPA Politburo, Secretariat and Central Committee on charges of treachery against the homeland, the national interests, and the aspirations of the PDPA by organizing a failed coup d'etat:

Shahnawaz, son of 'Abdul Halim
Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, son of Gulab Shah
Mir Sahed Karwal, son of Ghulam Qader
Niaz Muhammad Momand, son of Omar Gul
General Nazar Muhammad, son of Agha Mir
General Dost Muhammand, son of Hazrat Khan
Shabaz Lewal, son of Sultan Akbar
Qadir Agah, son of 'Abdul Ghafur
Abdul Qadir Ashna, son of Mula Dad
Saleh Muhammad Ziray, son of Gul Muhammad
Ghulam Dastagir Panjshiri, son of Malik Dad
Muhammadullah Safi, son of Soban Shah
Feda Muhammad Feda, son of Jan Muhammad
General Muhammad Hashim, son of Qadir
Muhammad Hashim Watanwal, son of Muhammad Omar
Hunar Ghayrat, son of Awal Mir
Khalilullah Kohestani, son of Enayatollah
Rahimullah 'Usuli, son of Abdul Ghafour
General (Sayfollah), son of Sayed Muhammad
'Abdul Habib, son of 'Abdul Hamid
Gul Dad, son of Bahram
(Norwahab Sapal), son of Jamil Khan
'Abdul Rahman Basam, son of Muhammad Hasan
'Abdul Rashid, son of 'Abdul Hamid

At the end of the work of the plenum, esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of Afghanistan, presented the concluding report of the plenum by assessing the result of its work.

The plenum ended at 1600 this afternoon in an atmosphere of party unity and solidarity, comradely enthusiasm, and complete understanding.

The basic report of the plenum will be broadcast tonight at 2100 [1630 GMT].

Najibullah Gives Opening Speech

LD1903081790 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Opening speech by Afghan President Najibullah to the PDPA Central Committee plenum on 18 March in Kabul—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, dear comrades: A year ago the world was talking about our successful defense of Jalalabad. This year our plenum is being held under circumstances that show that once again Afghanistan has become the focus of attention of world public opinion. This time the world mass media speaks about our decisive victory over the the failed conspiracy against the PDPA and the national reconciliation policy. Allow me, on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, to convey sincere congratulations to you all for successfully crushing and foiling the Shahnawaz-Gulbuddin plot. [applause]

Comrades, people compare the recent conspiracy to last year's surprise attack by the joint forces of the enemy on Jalalabad. They interpret similar signals in both incidents—the collusion of the traitors placed in the party with the extremists, an operation based on a plan organized in advanced in Pakistan, a reliance on militarism to impose their will, and finally the thirst of the plotters to cause destruction and bloodshed. The question arises: Is there really any objective and logical relation between these two phenomenon? It is necessary to look briefly into the development of issues during the last year, which is known as the year of independent defense. [passage omitted]

How was the extremists' anti-party and anti-state conspiracy organized? Pakistan's military intelligence distinguished a favorable situation to launch an anti-state coup d'etat in the form of Shahnawaz, who was thirsty for power, was endlessly selfish, and lacked political knowledge. He had also established strong ties with anti-reconciliation elements inside the PDPA. The aforementioned organization had established contacts with Shahnawaz long ago through the agents of Gulbuddin, who has selfishness and shortsightedness in common with them. Gradually it culminated in planning and implementing the failed and treacherous coup d'etat.

It was 1320 [0850 GMT] when the bombardment began on the presidential palace, Central Committee, Radio Afghanistan, the headquarters of [word indistinct] of the National Guard, and unit 33. The Darullaman Palace was captured at 0800 on 7 March by units and companies loyal to the state. Around noon on 7 March, the resistance of the traitors was crushed in all points. Traitor Shahnawaz, along with his band and group, flew to Pakistan at 1225 via Kuh-e Safi and Nezhrab at a low altitude.

It is worth mentioning that in the failed coup d'etat a total of 88 flights were taken from the airfield [place not specified]. Eighteen of these flights bombed Kabul and the other 70 flights, while under command either crushed the enemy around Kabul or bombed the deserts and ditches [as heard]. Despite all the measures taken by the coup plotters, the party members, with bravery and boldness, crippled them even in the units and companies which were in the service of the coup d'etat, with their timely actions and reactions.

In general, the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] Armed Forces personnel, including the Army, Sarandoy, and state security, with heroism and self-sacrifice, played a decisive role in foiling the Shahnawaz-Gulbuddin coup d'etat. It should be mentioned that even as the coup d'etat was launched, the working group on organizing propaganda, under my supervision, was able to carry out its duties accurately and quickly, organize propaganda, and prepare the decrees and speeches of the president, and announcements and statements of the Armed Forces Supreme Command. This played a decisive role in enhancing the morale of the Armed Forces and the people of the country. Radio and television personnel and officials of the Ministry of Communications carried out their duties in a worthy manner and with full decisiveness under very difficult and destiny-making moments.

The PDPA Central Committee expresses its sincere appreciation and thanks to all of them. The PDPA Central Committee expresses thanks to all the personnel, units, and companies which took part in defeating the Shahnawaz-Gulbuddin coup d'etat. The conspirators, who were deprived of support from the people, chose the RA Armed Forces and the party as the main points to strike. Their goal was to reduce the standing of the party and the state of the RA.

A number of facts should be stated in this connection in more detail. In his attempt to weaken the Armed Forces—the PDPA Central Committee and Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland of the RA from very long time ago paid attention to the facts about the treacherous actions by Shahnawaz. In order to weaken the Armed Forces, he reduced supplies to Qandahar, Nangarhar, Khowst major district, Vardak, and Meydan Shar, and other regions, deliberately purged the Army of elements loyal to the PDPA and the homeland, and disobeyed the decisions and instructions of the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland of the RA.

The party has evidence of the deliberate fall of Takhar, Konduz, and Konarha and his deliberate procrastination during changes in the deployment of forces from Sharanah, Orgun and Bamiam, which caused the loss of lives to a number of loyal persons to the RA.

When the state security organs of the RA received reliable information about Gulbuddin's plot, they obtained permission from the Defense Council of the RA and arrested the network of Gulbuddin's band in the Armed Forces. Shahnawaz and his partners, against all

military norms and especially against the state of emergency, created their own military council comprising officers loyal to them. They formed a garrison at Darrullam and carried out combat measures there and threatened the RA in a bloody military clash. And on the anniversary of the savage attack on Jalalabad they resorted to a military conspiracy.

In order to weaken the party, the organizers of the plot expertly harmonized military preparations with anti-party actions. The deviant and anti-party group which became well-known in the party as the Zagoniha's group [referring to Dr. Zarghon, a khalqi extremist who was killed during 'Amin's time] and was constantly conducting fractional activities in the civilian and military organizations of the party, was employed as the fifth pilar of the enemies of Afghanistan inside the PDPA. The selfish, ambitious, and [word indistinct] such as Mir Saheb Karwal, Niaz Mohmand, Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, and Asadullah Sarvary, as weil as defamed and opportunist faces such as Saleh Muhammad Ziaray, and Dastagir Panjsheri, who were causing factionalism and divisions in the party, were at the top of this network.

This faction created a separate organizational and leadership structure and continued covert and overt destructive activities. This hypocritical group was on the one hand preaching dogmatic slogans, such as not changing the program, charter, and name of the party, and on the other hand was murmering democratic slogans in a distorted manner, holding a congress, and separating the Armed Forces from cadre policy and others. The anti-party group, by abusing the difficult situation created as a result of the war, resorted to defaming propaganda against the leadership of the party and state of the Republic of Afghanistan and fanned up, using all means, the national and sectional conflicts inside the party.

The anti-party group was distributing deceitful letters, slogans, and announcements and portraying the situation as critical. They were suggesting prescriptions on how to deal with the critical situation. These anti-party elements—whose links with Pakistan's military intelligence were revealed—in the course of party sessions in January and February, tried to portray themselves as the defenders of the interests of a specific faction of the party and used mostly workers, soldiers, and other people loyal to the party to express their aims. At that time, rejecting the distorted claims by the anti-party elements was difficult.

Factionalists and opportunists should not be allowed to bake the bread of their group interests in the warm oven of incidents and, by hiding behind factions and groupings, provoke party members against each other. Every action of this sort is considered collaboration with the enemies of the party and the people. The party and the consolidation of its unity is the condition for the survival of our party and the guarantor of our future great victories. Members of the party in the leadership organs and others in the RA Armed Forces must take urgent measures to render ineffective the (?lost) information and serious measures must be adopted to comprehensively revive the damaged units and companies and enhance the readiness of the Armed Forces to repulse and rebuff every kind of probable action by the enemies in the future—in particular, in strategic locations.

The organizational, propaganda, and propagation sections of the Central Committee, along with local party committees and the party organizations in the Armed Forces should carry out much propaganda and explanation work among the people on the essence of the aborted coup d'etat and the hostility of its organizers to peace and national reconciliation.

Dear comrades, members of the PDPA Central Committee, we have entered the fourth year of the national reconciliation policy and the second year of independent defense of the RA. During this time we have proved that we can defend ourselves very well and, by putting forward realistic political propositions, gain the initiative. However, the continuation of movement in its present form can not satisfy us. Despite all our achievements and successes, the war still continues and the people are therefore suffering. We have taken effective steps to eliminate the power monopoly and mainten the unity of forces.

Recently however, we have been striving ahead bluntly. I would like to say that we need, in all aspects, to quicken the process of democratization in society and expand the policy of national reconciliation. without a rapid and courageous movement forward, the party may remain behind the path of events and such a matter would inflict irreparable damage to its credibility and prestige. By sticking to the old methods and forms of work, conservatism in policy, and old habits we cannot achieve new and courageous goals. We should, in a decisive and radical form, move toward the comprehensive propagation of the party's policy and come into step with the party with this process of [word indistinct].

An objection may be raised that we have travelled our way, now let the opposition show its flexibility. We cannot ignore the role of the foreign factor in trying to solve Afghanistan's problems. However, as three years ago, we believe today too that the fundamental and decisive role in maintaining peace and stability depends on the internal factor, namely the people of Afghanistan. and it is the people who have the last word. We should begin work and work with them indefatiguablly and without delay.

If we can draw more and more internal commanders to end the war and advance talks and understanding; if we can increase the number of those joining the policy of national reconciliation; if we can attract, not all, but at least the majority of forces for reconciliation, that is workers, farmers, religious leaders, artisans, national capitalists, and intellectuals to a true movement, in that case, relying on the internal factor we can achieve such a level of peace and stability that the effectiveness of

designs for interference from abroad will be decreased to the lowest level and the foreign factor will inevitably come to accept the reality of the internal factor.

We have arrived at a moment when we should put forward to the people our aims concerning peace and reconciliation, not in the form of slogans, but in the form of a clear and realistic program. We announced two years ago that we were giving up the monopoly on power. In practice, however, we have so far done very little in this regard. In line with the decisions of the second all-party conference we should invite the second congress of the party. Of course the convocation of the congress in itself is not the goal, but an essentially new page in the life of the party should be opened. The congress should end with the complete reconstruction of the party policy program, structural principles, and methods of its activity. The Politburo, some time ago, commissioned a number of committees to draft preliminary plans for the program and charter of the party. They have started working. In the course of meetings during January and February, hundreds of proposals, opinions, and programs were sent to the Central Committee and the aforementioned committees.

But let us discuss this question today. Do they really want a congress and democracy? Can they really represent a section of the party? No. Never. Because the supporters of democracy are against violence and the use of force. The supporters of democracy never use the language of dictation, armed action, and conspiracy against the people. What is connected with the unity of the party today is the honor that our present plenum and also across the party—its members, cadres, and activists—stand in the trenches of the defense of the country and national dignities as a united body by rejecting previously rejected connections. [applause] But where are the traitors to party factionalists? In Pakistan, from where they got the anti-nation conspiracy's instructions.

In brief, the Shahnawaz-Gulbuddin coup was not merely an adventurist act by an individual or a handful of individuals. It was a wide conspiracy, planned by external and internal enemies of Afghanistan against the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of our beloved country. The foiled coup was aimed at obliterating the PDPA and expelling it from the political scene in the country because its organizers were afraid of the magnetic power of the national reconciliation policy pursued by the party and held in the hearts of the people.

On the other hand, the essence of the conspiracy was basically against the peaceful solution of disputes. For instance, Gulbuddin, after a trip inside Afghanistan, declared in Peshawar that the only way to overthrow the government of the RA was by mounting a coup d'etat with a number of officers and with the assistance of commanders on the periphery of Kabul, and by having them set up a military council.

The question can be
evolution of the ce asked: If the party was aware of the
prevent it? This qcoup d'etat, was it not possible to
Central Committeeuestion is totally correct. The party
members of this. ⅴ in an announcement informed party
warned about it at tWe also clearly and unambiguously
But the organizers the 25th PDPA anniversary meeting.
clever way that hasts of the conspiracy acted in such a
would have given ty action by the party and government
innocent victims an them the opportunity to pose as
would have confusnd by justifying their treacherous acts
our compatriots. sed the minds of party members and

Therefore the Cent
ments of the incidetral Committee followed the develop-
result, on the one hents patiently and with vigilance. As a
conspirators on thehand the anti-party elements and the
and the sound forcee whole were isolated from the party
take correct stance,es of the party took the opportunity to
of bloodshed and t, and on the other hand, the possibility
reduced to the lowthe continuation of fighting has been
tive point we triedvest possible level. On the most sensi-
problems caused bl to find a sensible way to resolve the
of Shahnawaz andy the anti-party and provocative acts
resorted to armed d elements connected to him but he
and anti-peace con action. Anyway now the anti-nation
tralized as a resultnspiracy has been dislodged and neu-
bravery of Armedt of steely discipline in the party, the
support of our noll Forces' members, and the resolute
tion policy. ble people of the national reconcilia-

People who had be
act, now, after theeen frightened as a result of the savage
the state of the e abortion of the conspiracy, support
congratulations m RA with certainty. The sending of
ruined as a result messages, paying visits to the places
and the recitation of the conspiracy, thanksgiving prayers
demand of the pecof the Koran and the angry and correct
the conspirators aople for the immediate punishment of
are demonstrations of this fact.
What measures wi
math of the foiledill the party take to alleviate the after-
l conspiracy?
Dear comrades, f
attention of the first of all I would like to draw the
cadres, and every members of the Central Committee,
propaganda of the member of the party to the seditious
It must be noted t enemies against the unity of the party.
including overconthat all the great victories of our party,
the unity of the Pning the conspirators, is the product of
PDPA and that alone.

Comrades, the pa
national reconciliarty, by putting foreward the cause of
this policy in life aiation, and the fundamental (?link) of
prosperity [word and society, is the factor of man and his
the human being indistinct]. Therefore, once and for all,
taken place center of Afghanistan and his prosperity has
party. The PDPAred around the aims and policies of the
otic, national, dA (?is) the party of all conscious, patri-
elements in Afdemocratic, peaceful, and progressive
national, social, ghanistan without consideration of
social base of the and (?socioeconomic) relations. The
e party, as the social foundation of the

sovereignty, is not limited to the working and peasant classes, but belongs to all healthy social forces.

It would not be suitable for the party to take by force the path of the country's history through the idol-worship-like way of thinking. Our party, as the main principle of its activity, relies on the wealth of thinking and values of belief of the people of Afghanistan, and on international contemporary scientific thinking. The party is the inheritor of the praiseworthy traditions of the strugglers for freedom, the Constitutionalists and Afghan democrats and is carrying forward extensive struggles to defend the national interests of the people of Afghanistan, and to succeed in lasting peace, justice, democracy, and progress in our beloved homeland.

The party, as the initiator of the expansion of democracy, political pluralism, and the consolidation of national unity and is waging a consistent struggle in this way. The party in its structure and activity reflects unbreakable unity, love for the homeland, and solidarity with the people. It implements its [word indistinct] in this spirit. The policy of national reconciliation, the fundamental aim of which is the maintenance of peace and the revival of national unity and achieving the reconstruction and progress of beloved Afghanistan, is in accord with the interests of all classes, strata, and social groups in the country.

Without taking into consideration the events that took place in the country during the eleven years of revolution, the party's deep human aspirations lie in the prosperity of the people and the progress of the beloved homeland shines like a glorious torch in the heart of every member of the party and every patriot. Those who have struggled for long years in the trenches of armed defense and creative work, were consistently inspired by such aspirations and are still being inspired. Achieving great ideals in progress and prosperity in the future too will be the basic directing of the activities of our party, because life without ideals is hollow and without content.

However, in a decisive way we are distancing and should distance ourselves from the dogmatic and superficial [word indistinct] of the revolution. We should resolutely leave all those systems, phenomenon, and methods which, in one form or other, have distanced the party from the people and limited its base in society. The aspirations of the revolution are capable of being felt and realized by the people. They are the growth of production forces, the enhancement of the living standards of the people, the maintenance of education, training and public health services for all, complete equality before the law, equality of the basic rights for all citizens, freedoms of conscience, and the right to choose a way of life and, and most of all, to secure the utilization from the right of [words indistinct].

Our party today and in the future will put forward these high humanitarian goals and utilize the experiences of all successful social movements who have been successful in maintaining the socioeconomic development and growth of society, in order to achieve the aforementioned aspirations. The party considers the growth and development of society, a long and gradual process which can be achieved through the realization of scientific and realistic policies based on the utilization of the energy of the whole Afghan nation nd through the maximum utilization of all the material and moral capacity of society.

Thus the party at this juncture considers as its most vital duty the maintenacne of a broad, strong, and unified people in Afghanistan. The party believes that the people of Afghanistan have not been divided into each others friends and foes. The bounds of the present hostility, which d ags the society toward gradual elimination, are unnatural and relative bounds. They can be eliminated through the policy of national reconciliation and cause the revival of national unity.

The party pursues the principle that all forces in support of peace and the construction of Afghanistan, can and should, as a whole, become united on the basis of [word indistinct] flexibility. The party realizes the inevitability of the existence of differences of opinions, programs and consequently organizations and believes that political differences should only be solved through political and democratic methods and not by the use of force and arms.

The Central Committee, in keeping with the plenum held during the month of Aqrab [23 Oct-22 Nov], pursues an active dialogue with all parties and social organizations, and it is necessary to actively continue the course of discussion to each an understanding and accord. The Politburo considers it necessary to take a new step toward abondoning the monopoly of power to prove full loyalty of the party to political pluralism and the principle of democracy. The party should voluntarily and with its [words indistinct] put forward a proposal of rescinding the concessionary position conferred on it in the preface of the constitution and the Loya Jirgah of the RA. It could be asked whether or not this weakens the standing of the party in society. The answer is: By no manner of means. There is no doubt that the credibility and prestige of the party is many times greater than it was three years or more ago, and it is merely due to it reliance on people, its truthfulness in democracy, and its position I practice. If the opposite was correct, the prestige of the party would have been greater when the party was pursuing a policy of power monopoly.

Comrades, the prestige and credibility of parties are calculated by their adherence to the interests of the people, their usefulness in life, and not merely on the ground of tenets of law and decrees.

On the relations of the party with social organizations: The party establishes its relations with social organizations which act in line with the law on the basis of dialogue, mutual satisfaction, cooperation and corodination, and supports all their humanitarian activities. Members of the party, like other citizens of the RA, may

become members of social organizations of the RA on the basis of their sex, age, profession, and qualification. In that case they will be obliged to follow the constitution and the norm of life of the organizations, and they will have equal rights and duties with other members of the organizations. Party members who obtain membership of the organization are dutybound to be among the most poineering members of the organization and to attain a leading position within the organisation by the demonstration of practical merit. Party comrades in social organizations shall be obliged to propagate the policy of the party in the organizations, and to attract the support of members of the organizations to general and current party policy.

On the relations of the party state and government: The party operates in the political system as a recognized and total party force, and campaigns for a leading role in any conditions. The party does not alter the state or government, and does not dictate to them, but imposes its political influence in those estabishments through democratic channels and also through its members. The party takes part in elections to the Loya Jirgah, the Meli shura, and local organs of state power and administration in line with the law. The party tries to represent the interests of the great majority of our compatriots in establishing state sovereignty in coalition with its all political allies.

Comrades, such is the opinion of the Politburo about the role and position of the party in the new circumstance to which our political system enters, and the fundamental aspects of the draft party program, which have to be amended in the shortest possible time. In the meantime the party cannot envision its new duties in the present and changing conditions of society without its own renewal and the introduction of serious changes in the life of [word indistinct], which will guarantee the expansion of democracy and make available a propitious name for the party.

Esteemed comrades, the Loya Jirgah of the Sawr of 1368 [21 April-21 May 1989] extended the state of emergency for six months, and the president of Afghanistan was authorized to extend it in case of necessity for another six months, which we agreed to after consultation with members of the Central Committee at the plenum, during Aqrab. Now, after two months, this period has also expired. However, as previously noted, the military-political situation is still complicated. Today one should again talk about it. In case of the need to extend the state of emergency, the convocation of the Loya Jirgah of the RA will be necessary. We need to convene the Loya Jirgah not only for the extention of the state of emergency, which is small item, but for wider consultations with representatives of the people on the results of national reconciliation over the passed period, the introduction of amendments to the constitution, and the duties of the state for the future expansion of national reconciliation policy.

Najibullah's Closing Address

LD1803205790

[Editorial report] Kabul Domestic Service in Dari at 1630 GMT on 18 March carries carries a recording of Najibullah's 14-minute closing address to the plenum.

Najibullah says: The unity of the party cannot be ensured by balance between Parcham and Khalq, but it can be fulfilled by the rejection of this trend. Our party comes from the Muslim people of Afghanistan, and party members should be in their service. Only by working for peace will the obtaining of people's votes in the peaceful Afghanistan of tomorrow be ensured. It is true that there is war in the country, but party members should take active part to remove the economic hardship of people, he says. Party members should help farmers to cultivate even a single inch of farming land. Party members must take resolute action against corruption. The recent coup attempt showed that Pakistan and the United States do not accept a political solution; therefore the party members must ready themselves for the crushing of the warmongers in the coming year and be prepared for the defense of the country. The speech concludes.

2,000 Troops Disarmed, 'Another Coup' Feared

BK1603153190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Reports received from Afghanistan state that about 2,000 troops have been disarmed in Kabul on suspicion of being supporters of General Shahnawaz Tanay, who recently tried to overthrow the Kabul regime. According to MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] sources, the Najibullah administration fears another coup attempt. That is why steps are being taken to disarm the troops.

The reports also state that the mujahidin carried out fierce attacks on Khowst for the fourth consecutive day. The mujahidin have also attacked and damaged the Governor's House and Khad headquarters in Kabul. Nine Kabul regime troops were killed in the operation.

Hikmatyar Defends Decision To Support Tanay

BK1703040490 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 17 Mar 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The Afghan guerrilla leader, Mr. Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, has defended his decision to support the leader of last week's attempted coup in Afghanistan, General Shahnawaz Tanay. Speaking in a BBC interview, he rejected charges by other guerrilla leaders that by working with hard-line military officers, he has compromised their jihad or holy war. Here is Lyce Doucet in Peshawar.

[Begin recording] Mr. Hikmatyar said other guerrilla leaders were sadly mistaken. He insisted that he had not joined Gen Tanay, but the general had joined the mujahidin, accepting their goal to establish an Islamic government in Afghanistan. We should use every opportunity, he said, to work toward this.

Mr. Hikmatyar pointed out that other Afghan officers and members of the ruling party, including President Najibullah's brother, were previously accepted by guerrilla parties when they defected. This was no different, he said, adding that Gen Tanay had given valuable assistance by splitting the ruling party.

Some observers have commended Mr. Hikmatyar for what they see as a decisive move, using Gen Tanay to try and weaken the Afghan Government. But some mujahidin have [word indistinct] bitterly that all their sacrifices in the war against the Soviet-backed government now seem to have been in vain.

Gen Tanay has been repeating Mr. Hikmatyar's proposal to establish a revolutionary council followed by elections to form an Islamic government. But his statements since last week' s coup attempt bear little relation to his previous profile as a hard-line military officer with a leading role in the ruling party. This, coupled with Gen Tanay's dependence on Mr. Hikmatyar's guerrillas for his protection, has led some observers to describe him as a prisoner, if only of circumstances. [end recording]

Rebels Urged To Resell Weapons to Government

OW1703084090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 17 KYODO—Afghan President Najibullah on Saturday urged local guerrilla commanders to sell their heavy weaponry back to the government and send representatives to the capital for peace talks in an attempt to end the nation's 12-year civil war.

The Afghan leader said the government was prepared to purchase rebel arms on the basis of fixed prices and set up joint commissions with opposition groups leading to the release and exchange of prisoners of war kept by both sides.

Najibullah also called on guerrilla leaders to refrain from launching attacks on the Kabul-Tourkham Highway, a critical trade route stretching from the Afghan capital to the Pakistani border. The government wants to reopen the highway, which it closed after rebel attacks last year.

Radio Reports Military Situation in Provinces

LD1603153490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Units and companies of the Armed Forces based in Khowst district are carrying out their national and patriotic duties with high combat readiness. BAKHTAR's military section reports that during the past three days the joint forces of the enemy have been subjected to pressure by Armed Forces' units and companies and have not been able to engage in active combat activities. Terrorists utilizing heavy weapons have fired at some parts of Esmai'l Khel, Tanay [names as received], Gorbaz, frontline defense posts of the units, and some parts of Khowst city.

In order to neutralize these criminal and terrorist actions, the positions and resistance locations of the Pakistani-linked armed extremists were brought under artillery and air strikes. As a result, 544 personnel of the enemy joint forces, including a number of ringleaders of the Gulbuddin gang, were taken out of combat during the past three days. A total of three tanks, four mortars, two rocket launchers, and 30 light weapons belonging to the enemy were destroyed. As a result of loss of life, the enemy's morale has severely dropped. As a result of enemy fire two members of the Armed Forces have been martyred and 12 others were wounded.

The report adds that units and companies in Nangarhar Province as a whole are engaged in strengthening and equipping the engineering positions of their previous defense sites and some units have resolutely repulsed attacks by the Pakistani-linked warmongers. They were pushed back toward the Gamberi desert, and the Armed Forces have captured new positions in that direction.

In the past three days the joint enemy forces including the Pakistani militarists, armed extremists, and Saudi Wahhabis, directed heavy weapons fire against some parts of the Jalalabad city garrison, the first lines of units and companies, some posts of Behsud garrison, the Samarkhel garrison, Kand, and Katarghay. In retaliation the centers of resistance and positions of the Pakistani-linked extremists were subjected to artillery and air strikes as a result of which 128 people from the joint enemy forces have been taken out of combat in the past three days. A total of five mortars, three missile launchers, 200 warheads, two BM-20 units, one arms and ammunition cache and six rocket launchers belonging to the enemy were destroyed. As a result of enemy fire, five members of the Armed Forces units were martyred and 10 were wounded.

According to another report, on 14 March units in Qandahar Province, carried out mopping up operations around (Tor Kotal), as a result of which 30 rocket missiles, 32 mortar mines, and four antivehicle mines were seized. On 12 and 13 March the extremists linked to Pakistan fired on security posts on the city security belt and (Tor Kotal). In response, the positions of the armed extremists were brought under fire by the units Armed Forces, as a result of which 44 of the joint enemy forces were taken out of combat and two recoilless guns, [words indistinct] 123-mm, three mortars, two caches of weapons and ammunition, and two rocket launchers were destroyed. One soldier and three local people were injured.

Fierce Fighting Reported in Khowst 17 Mar

BK1703143890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 17 (AFP)—Afghan government forces and resistance fighters are locked in heavy combat in and around the southeastern provincial city of Khowst after three days of fighting left heavy casualties, a government spokesman said Saturday. Government air force and artillery units pounded mujahidin positions around the city, removing more than 100 men from the battlefield, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The mujahidin shelled security posts from long-range, killing two government soldiers and wounding 11, he said.

Other official sources said the mujahidin had mounted heavy pressure on Khowst, where government garrisons are being resupplied by a non-stop relay of night transport planes. "It is a beseiged city but we are holding our positions," a reliable source said. "Sometimes the (resupply) aircraft are hit and we have lost some planes."

The fighting was a continuation of combat which broke out a few days before Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanay mounted an abortive coup d'etat against the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah on March 6.

In the first official report of fighting since the coup failed, the government said Saturday that 252 mujahidin had been killed, wounded or captured over the preceding four days. The fighting also covered the village of Tanay near Khowst and home to the former defence minister who fled Kabul after the coup bid failed. The resistance had captured some outposts in the fighting soon after the coup bid was launched, but the government had retaken them with heavy artillery and air attacks, the official source said.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman theorized that the resistance had launched the Khowst attack to give them a territorial base inside Afghanistan before the expiration of the term of the mujahidin interim government. "Now the opposition forces are under pressure and there is no chance for them to organize major military operations," he said. He said government troops were also strengthening positions in and around the eastern city of Jalalabad, which had witnessed sporadic fighting over the past three days in which two government soldiers were killed and two wounded.

Government forces have subjected the surroundings of Khowst to a daily barrage of at least six Soviet-made Scud-b missiles over the past week, reliable sources said. The reports of fighting on the eastern front were recieved as reliable diplomatic sources said government and resistance forces exchanged artillery fire in the western city of Herat. The fighting spread over Wednesday and Thursday was apparently to mark the 11th anniversary of a rebellion in the city crushed by Soviet tanks and fighter planes which left thousands of casualties, the sources said. Official sources also said a government convoy carrying civilian and military supplies from Herat airport to the city was attacked leaving some trucks damaged. The government spokesman was unable to give details of the Herat fighting.

300 Reported Dead From Famine in Badghis

BK1803143790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Reports say that more than 300 people died from famine in Badghis Province in Afghanistan. According to MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], people of (Barghaf), (Qabisi) and (Ghol) districts have been particularly affected.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin have reportedly carried out successful operations in Deh Sabz, a district of Kabul, and seized three posts. Six soldiers and an officer of the Kabul regime defected to the mujahidin.

Mujahidin Reportedly Capture More Kabul Posts

BK1903142290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have captured several more posts of the Kabul regime in the west of Jalalabad city.

According to MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan], the mujahidin have also seized a large quantity of arms. The mujahidin attacked the Khowst airport as well, killing 25 Kabul regime soldiers and injuring 100. The mujahidin also attacked a military convoy proceeding from Shindand to Herat, killing 60 soldiers of the Kabul regime and targeting several tanks.

Over 100 Defense Officials Reported Held

BK1803085990 Lahore THE NATION in English 18 Mar 90 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—Only in the first and second days of the coup attempt, Dr. Najib, leader of the Kabul regime arrested over hundred senior officers of the Defence Ministry including General Wali Shah, Gen. Najib Ahmad and Gen. Sher Baz, all affiliated with the Khalq wing of the Afghanistan Communist Party (ACP) says a report reached here on Saturday [17 March].

The Kabul regime has varied the military detainees into three categories namely Generals, Colonels and the ranks below Colonels and jailed them in separate places.

Dr. Najib also ordered the Chief of the Special Tribunal of the Communist regime to finalise the death sentence of the accused collaborators of Gen. Shahnawaz Tanay as soon as possible.

According to Khalilzai, Deputy Chief of the Special Tribunal, special trial of Gen. Wali Shah, Commandant of the Air Defence, Gen. Najib, Commandant of Special Guard and Gen. Sher Baz, Chief of an important (WAD)

and some other officers are nearing conclusion. They are sentenced to death and the punishment will be accomplished soon after issuing the trial.

Kabul's Overtures to Exiled King Reportedly Fail

BK1803123390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1153 GMT 18 Mar 90

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] Kabul, March 18 (AFP)—Kabul's hopes of persuading exiled King Zahi Shah to return and break a political logjam were jolted when the elderly former monarch insisted the Afghan Government of President Najibullah step down first.

In remarks broadcast over the weekend, Zahi Shah said a political solution to the 11-year-old Afghan conflict was impossible as long as Mr. Najibullah's Soviet-backed People's Democratic Party of Afganistan (PDPA) stayed in power. He said "communists" had no place even in a short-term interim government, that the PDPA was an illegitimate regime, and that power-sharing could not be a basis for a settlement. The remarks came at a time when Kabul, after surviving a coup d'etat bid, had renewed overtures to the 74-year-old former king despite deep scepticism that he would respond.

A presidential aide said here Saturday [17 March] that Kabul had sent a new message to the exiled monarch, urging him to play a role in ending the war that has cost a million lives. "We hope that the recent event of the failed coup will remove the reasons which have discouraged him from returning," Presidential Spokesman Sarwar Yourish, who is also a member of the PDPA's central committee, said. "One of the reasons was that hardliners both in the PDPA and the opposition (resistance) had been dominant. The coup's failure has effectively isolated them. We hope this will help the former king to take a decision and play a positive role," Mr. Yourish said.

The PDPA has rejected stepping down as a precondition for the peace process to begin.

Zahi Shah has been living in exile in Rome since he was toppled on July 17, 1973, in a coup organised by his first cousin and brother-in-law, Mohammad Daoud, who declared Afganistan a republic. Mr. Daoud, who himself died in a coup five years later, struck when the king had gone to England and Italy for eye treatment. Zahi Shah, after reigning 40 years, joined the list of the kings deposed since World War II and accepted exile to prevent bloodshed. But after years of fighting between the PDPA and the U.S.- and Pakistan-backed mujahidin resistance seeking to topple it, Zahi Shah is currently seen by many as a messiah of peace.

Mr. Yourish said Mr. Najibullah's government was even ready even to give Zahi Shah an "executive role" if he cared to return. Negotiations would decide exactly what that role would be, he said. "We believe that Zahi Shah and the moderates in the opposition (mujahidin) should realize that hardliners are no longer an obstacle. So if the intention is there, an effective role can be played by Zahi Shah," Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said in an interview earlier this week.

The renewal of overtures to the former king was seen by analysts here as part of the PDPA's bid to demonstrate that it was working with renewed vigour for a political settlement after suviving the coup mounted by the former defence minister, General Shahnawaz Tanay. Gen. Tanay, whom Kabul has tried to project as a warmonger opposed to Mr. Najibullah's national reconciliation policy, was backed by the Pakistan-based Hezb-e Eslami Party led by radical fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hikmatyar. Mr. Hikmatyar has in the past ridiculed a possible role for Zahi Shah.

Royalists in Kabul said the time was ripe for Zahi Shah to return, but that he would do so only on his own terms. "He wants to come back and work for peace very intensely," said Anwar Argghandewal, who served as a cabinet minister during the monarchy and met with Zahi Shah in Rome last May as Mr. Najibullah's intermediary. He said Zahi Shah wanted an interim, non-partisan government and then a Loya Jirgah, or grand national assembly, to be held with all sections of society participating to decide the future. In May, Zahi Shah told Mr. Argghandewal that he had no ambition to rule again and was willing to accept the PDPA as a "fact of life" which should have a presence in the loya jirga, but his latest remarks indicated a hardening of his stand.

Mohammed Asghar, 74, who heads the National Salvation Society, formed in September to work for an end to the war, said Zahi Shah would never join discussions with the PDPA. "In my opinion, the coup has shown that the PDPA is not as united as it has always claimed to be time and again. It is weaker now. The coup d'etat has made it necessary for the PDPA to be more flexible," he said, hinting that the party should step down. Zahi Shah should be made president of an interim administration to enable him to play an effective role, Mr. Asghar said.

The former monarch's latest remarks have reinforced scepticism on his possible return. "The messiah will not come," predicted an Asian diplomat. "At his age, there is no reason why he should want to mess around in a situation being aggravated by men in their 30s and 40s. His return looks the most acceptable solution, but an impossible one." Many Afghans from common walks of life, who yearn for peace after witnessing more than a decade of bloodshed, agree with him. "We have a saying that you cannot put water back into a broken pot," said Akjhtar Mohammad, 51, who sells stationery on the street here and served as a junior government employee during the monarchy. "Zahi Shah willl not come, it is impossible," he said.

India

Further Reportage on Maldivian President's Visit

Gearing To Host SAARC Meeting

BK1603160990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1459 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] New Delhi, March 16 (AFP)—Visiting Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom announced Friday [16 March] that he was gearing to host this years' summit of a seven-nation South Asian grouping despite a pitch by Sri Lanka to stage it. Mr. Gayoom, who became the first head of state to visit New Delhi after Premier Vishwanath Pratap Singh came to power, ruled out two South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summits this year.

The Maldives, which had been chosen for the 1990 meeting, wants to host it in November. But Sri Lankan Government officials say that the SAARC charter does not bar two summits in one year.

The SAARC, formed in 1985, groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It is currently chaired by Pakistan.

"SAARC was discussed during my talks with the prime minister and we are both of the opinion that this year's summit should be in Male," Mr. Gayoom told reporters here on the second day of his three-day official visit. He said he was not informed about the April dates suggested by Colombo to host the summit but had only seen them in newspaper reports.

The Maldives, which has a population of just over 200,000 people, is concerned about tension between Pakistan and India over a Muslim-led separatist campaign in the Kashmir, but hopes it will not affect the regional grouping, he said. He said both sides should continue a dialogue to resolve the Kashmir issue.

In Colombo meanwhile, official sources said Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan would arrive Monday on a two-day visit to discuss the venue for the SAARC summit. The sources said Mr. Khan was expected to tell the Sri Lankan Government the views of other South Asian countries on the efforts of both Sri Lanka and the Maldives to host this year's annual SAARC summit. Sri Lanka, which refused to hold the 1989 summit last November because of Indian troop deployments in the island, has said it could hold the conference in April or May this year. The Indian Army is set to return home by March 31.

Mr. Gayoom said the special relationship the Maldives had with India should not affect ties with neighbouring Sri Lanka. Relations between Colombo and New Delhi have been tense over India's military presence in the island republic.

India and the Maldives signed a cultural exchange pact Thursday which will enable Maldives to train its diplomats and civil servants in India.

Maldives Foreign Minister Fathullah Jameel said in an interview Friday that Male was looking for a model friendship with India but ruled out any military pact with individual nations.

An armed coup attempt was staged by a Sri Lankan Tamil militant group led by dissident Maldivian businessman Abdullah Lutfy to oust Mr. Gayoom in November 1988, but it was put down after India rushed troops to his aid.

Addresses Delhi News Conference

BK1603160190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] The Maldives president, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, has said that his country would like to have joint collaboration with India in the fields of tourism, hotel building, and agriculture.

Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, Mr. Gayoom thanked the Government and the people of India for their support to the Maldives. He said he had extensive discussions with the president, Mr. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, on bilateral and international issues.

Terms Kashmir Issue 'Political'

BK1703021090 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] The president of the Maldives, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, has expressed the hope that tension between India and Pakistan will be resolved bilaterally. Mr. Gayoom was speaking to newspersons in New Delhi this evening. Mr. Gayoom, however, did not anticipate any problem for the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit on this account. He viewed Jammu and Kashmir as a political issue rather than religious.

[Begin Gayoom recording] What concerns us most in the matter of Jammu and Kashmir is that there is mounting tension between India and Pakistan. We have very good relations with both countries, and we would like to see a reduction of tension. In countries where there are multireligious, multiethnic, multicommunal societies it is not prudent for one to consider issues on religious lines. I think the question of Jammu and Kashmir is a political one and it should be considered in that light. [end recording]

Mr. Gayoom also disclosed that both India and Maldives agreed upon Male as suitable for this year's SAARC summit.

Departs 17 Mar

BK1703071490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] The president of Maldives, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, left for home today at the end of his three-day

visit to India. A ceremonial send off was accorded to him at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House]. The president, Mr. Venkataraman; the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh; and his cabinet colleagues were present on the occasion.

Talking to newsmen, Mr. Gayoom, who had wide-ranging discussions with Indian leaders, said there was a high degree of understanding on bilateral matters and international issues.

Devi Lal Resigns From Central Cabinet of Ministers

BK1603152890 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 1517 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal has resigned from the Central Cabinet of Ministers. Agency reports say that Devi Lal has sent in his resignation to Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh. Reports add that Devi Lal has expressed his strong resentment at the mischievous propaganda being carried out by the mass media to malign him and his son and Haryana chief minister, Om Prakash Chautala, and some other members of his family.

To Remain in Janata Dal

BK1703031290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] The deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, has said that though he has resigned from the union cabinet, he will not leave the Janata Dal. Mr. Devi Lal is also heading the parliamentary board of the Dal. He was speaking to newsmen at his residence in New Delhi soon after sending his resignation to the prime minister last evening. Asked by newsmen, the Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said his party is confident that the party leaders will be able to persuade Mr. Devi Lal to withdraw his resignation.

Security Forces Seize Weapons in Jammu Sector

BK1703130590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] The Border Security Force [BSF] has made a big catch of sophisticated arms and ammunition on the international border in the Jammu sector. According to the inspector general of the BSF, Jammu frontier, Mr. P.C. Dogra, a number of intruders from Pakistan were challenged by the BSF patrol party late last night near the (Channaur) farm. The intruders managed to escape back into the Pakistani territory, leaving behind half a dozen AK-47 rifles, several thousand rounds of ammunition, as well as other material, including explosives, electric detonators, and fuse wire. Mr. Dogra said the captured arms and ammunition were for the ongoing terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

BJP Block President, 2 Others Killed in Punjab

BK1703053490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] In Punjab, three persons, including a BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, have been killed in separate incidents since yesterday evening.

Terrorists shot dead the block president of the BJP, Mr. Sat Prabhakar, and seriously injured his friend at Rajpura Town in Patiala District.

In Amritsar District, a member was killed due to inter-gang rivalry attack in Village Sakhira in Tarn Taran area. In another incident in Amritsar City, terrorists fired at a police patrol vehicle engaged in chasing a suspect near Gurunanak Dev University campus. As a result, the police vehicle turned turtle, killing one policeman and seriously injuring three.

Curfew Imposed on Gujarat Town After Clashes

BK1603035190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] In Gujarat, the situation in the Patna town is now under control after the imposition of an indefinite curfew yesterday afternoon following several incidents of groups clashes. One person was killed in these incidents.

No untoward incident has been reported since last night. Meanwhile, additional police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed and senior officials are keeping a close watch over the situation.

Iran

Besharati Predicts Hostages' Release by Jan 1991

LD1803103490 Tehran IRNA in English 0545 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said Western hostages in Lebanon may be released by next January.

In an interview with the English daily TEHRAN TIMES printed Sunday, Besharati once again reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran was in no way involved in hostage taking. On release of the hostages he said, "I think that in the circumstances I experienced I can say that all the hostages may be released by next January."

TEHRAN TIMES quoted him as saying that all the hostages may not be released at once but "rather gradually."

Stressing that Iran "had no direct or indirect role in the matter," he said, "many countries believe that we in Iran have spiritual influence in Lebanon. They also believe that we can use the spiritual influence for the freedom of the hostages."

Stating that twice in the past Iran practically got the hostages released, Besharati disclosed "twice in the past we were on the verge of getting the hostages released but certain regional countries and certain groups torpedoed our efforts and the hostages remained in custody."

According to Besharati one instance was two years ago when Iran's efforts to secure freedom of the hostages were suddenly ruined by the Zionist attack on Lebanese Muslim forces. He said that all the grounds had then been prepared for their release.

Zionist kidnapping of Lebanese 'alim Shaykh 'Ubayd destroyed Iranian efforts for the second time, he said adding, "the matter remained in the cold storage again."

"I think if these two incidents would have not taken place, by now the hostages would have reached their homes," he said describing kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd as the best example of state-sponsored terrorism.

Besharati told TEHRAN TIMES that on the basis of his own observation in a recent trip to Lebanon and the fact "nothing is secret in Lebanon," "chances of the freedom of the hostages are brighter than at any time before."

He stressed that hostage taking is not the real issue in Lebanon, describing it the outcome of years of oppression of Lebanese people.

More on Possible Hostage Release

NC1803065490 Paris AFP in English 0641 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 18 (AFP)—All Western hostages held in Lebanon may be released by next January, a senior Iranian government official said in an interview published here Sunday.

"I think that in the circumstances I experienced I can say that all the hostages may be released by next January," Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati told the English-language TEHRAN TIMES daily.

Mr. Besharati said that in the event of a release, the hostages would not be freed all at once but "rather gradually". He denied however that Iran had any "direct or indirect role in the matter".

Mr. Besharati's statement was the latest in a series of remarks by Iranian officials and media in recent weeks that have fuelled speculation of a possible release of the hostages.

On March 7, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the hostage situation was "moving toward a solution."

tion."

Seventeen Westerners are believed to be held in Lebanon, mostly by groups considered close to Iran.

Embassy in Paris Issues Statement on Hostages

LD1703082690 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Paris, March 17, IRNA—Iranian Embassy here in a statement on Friday announced Iran's readiness to help set free all hostages held in Lebanon. It also strongly condemned any action which may endanger lives of innocent individuals.

Any involvement of Iran in hostage-takings was also categorically denied in the statement which stressed that the Islamic Republic continuous its efforts to secure freedom of hostages, the French hostages in particular.

"Obviously, the Islamic Republic of Iran will spare no effort which may lead to freedom of the hostages," the statement reiterated.

Meanwhile, eight ex-French hostages who are now back home, in a statement on Thurday urged Iran to help free Western hostages in Lebanon.

Syrian Foreign Minister Al-Shar' Arrives

JN1803152690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today arrived in Tehran on a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Al-Shar' was received by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Al-Shar' made a statement to journalists in which he said that he will hold talks with Dr. Velayati on developments in the region and on issues of concern to the two friendly countries, Syria and Iran.

For his part, Dr. Velayati said relations between Syria and Iran are very deep and brotherly and based on strategic foundations.

Welcomed by Velayati

LD1803172390 Tehran IRNA in English 1514 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived here for a two-day official visit today and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the airport.

"The objective of my visit is to discuss regional developments and matters of mutual interest with Iranian officials," he told IRNA upon arrival.

Velayati, for his part, referred to the "important and strategic ties" between the two countries, and said exchange of visits to the respective capitals at various levels has helped further strengthening of bilateral ties.

Officials of the two countries have frequently discussed

Officials of the two countries have frequently discussed different issues including those relevant to Lebanon, Palestine, Middle East and the Muslim world, said the

Iranian foreign minister, stressing the need for more coordination in the wake of the quick developments in the world.

Discusses Relations, Regional Issues

NC1903094190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Bilaterial relations, regional problems, and international developments were among the topics discussed during the first round of talks between the Iranian and Syrian foreign ministers which took place in Tehran yesterday afternoon.

IRNA reports that, during the two-hour meeting, Mr. Faruq al- Shar' pointed to the need to expand the relations between the two countries. On the problems of Lebanon and Palestine, he stated: Syria's stand on the Palestine problem remains firm. Syria is very well aware of the fact that Israel does not want peace and security in the region and that it is thinking of increasing its sphere of influence; in other words, of consolidating the occupation of Jerusalem and other Arab territories. He also described Syria's support for the stands of the Islamic Republic of Iran in regional Arab and international sessions as natural, adding that it stems from the fraternal and friendly relations between the two countries.

Mr. Velayati also referred to the growth in relations between Iran and Syria. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to stress the need to pursue the expansion of the two countries' relations.

The report states that developments concerning relations between the eastern and western blocs and their impact on regional problems were also discussed.

Majles Debates Budget Clauses on Rural Investment

LD1603125690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The review of various clauses of the budget bill for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] continued in today's open session of the Majles. Our correspondent reports in that connection.

[Correspondent] In this morning's open session of the Majles, which was chaired by Mr. Karrubi, debate on various clauses of the budget bill for 1369 continued by reviewing attached proposals and amendments put forward by deputies and Majles committees in connection with Clauses 5 and 6, some of which were ratified. According to one of the notes of the 6th clause of that bill, a sum of 22 billion rials, from investment sums, will be allocated for implementation of essential development projects for deprived areas. At least 70 percent of the said sum will be spent in rural and tribal areas. [passage omitted]

I should add that the open session of the Majles adjourned for lunch at noon today. It will resume its session at 1430 today, in order to continue debating the same clauses.

Further Debates on Budget, Arms

LD1703174690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] During today's open session, the Islamic Majles approved Notes 8 to 16 of the country's budget bill for the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] [video shows Majles in session] During today's open session of the Islamic Majles, chaired by Mr. Karrubi, the debate on notes of the country's budget bill for the year 1369 continued, and some proposed amendments of the deputies were ratified. On the basis of Clause B of Note 9, the Armed Forces and the security forces are duty bound to acquire their arms and amunition requirements from the defense industries' organization; and any military equipment which cannot be manufactured inside the country can only be purchased from abroad by the Ministry of Defense or the Armed Forces Logistics section.

On the basis of another clause of this note, a sum of 4 billion rials is allocated for the current expenditure by the Reconstruction Jihad Ministry's war and front support headquarters, and a sum of 1 billion rials is allocated to current expenditure by the Reconstruction Jihad Ministry's war engineering research centers. The sums will be available for use after the exchange of a letter of agreement with the Plan and Budget Organization. Another clause of the same note says: A sum of 3 billion rials will be placed at the disposal of the Education and Training Ministry and the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education toward scientific training for combatants.

On the basis of Note 10, a sum of 3 billion rials is allocated to the project to bring into operation all the finished hospitals and quarantine centers throughout the country through employment of the necessary staff; and on the basis of a recommendation by the Ministry of Hygiene, Treatment, and Medical Training, and endorsement of the Plan and Budget Organization, will be added to the current credit allocated to the medical schools and faculties and regional health centers of various provinces. A sum of 4 billion rials will also be allocated to state hospitals in various regions for essential repairs. The sum will be spent after the exchange of a letter of agreement between the Plan and Budget Organization and the regional health authority of each province. On the basis of another clause added to Note 10, a credit of 2.5 billion rials will be allocated for building 120 medical laboratories and 100 emergency centers in towns with a population of over 100,000 which currently lack such facilities.

Libyan Envoy Assails U.S 'Propaganda Attacks'

LD1703171190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Following U.S. propaganda attacks against Libya in connection with the explosion at the pharmaceutical factory in that country—propaganda to the effect that chemical substances are produced at the factory—the head of the Libyan People's Bureau in Tehran, in a press conference, described U.S. propaganda attacks as a conspiracy and said they served as a cover for the issue of the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Referring to the past history of U.S. attacks on Libya, he said: No factory in Libya produces chemical weapons or substances, and by raising such an issue, the United States is trying to prepare the groundwork for interference in the Middle East, particularly in the Mediterranean Sea. We therefore announce: If the United States attacks Libya, the Libyan Jamahariyah will be able to retaliate. He said: A committee has begun examinations in that regard in order to clarify the cause of the explosion. Announcing that reporters would soon be able to visit the plant, he said: We ask international organizations to view the factory on the condition that they first visit the chemical factories of the United States and Israel.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Cited on Bazoft Execution

LD1803232890 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA—Among the various trades, "trade of pen" has its own room but in the absence of commitment, the writer will sell his honour, reputation, faith, nationality and everything for good, said a commentary carried by the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, Sunday.

The article, titled "The Consequence of Being a Mercenary", noted that such scribes are worthy as long as their pens served the interests of their masters.

It referred to the recent execution in Baghdad of Iranian born London-based journalist Farzad Bazoft, as "an example of those who have sold their pens to the West" and said the likes of Bazoft could be found in such media horns of Global Arrogance as the BBC, VOA, NEWSWEEK, OBSERVER, INDEPENDENT and etc.

The eight-year long services of these groups to those who have supported the Iraqi regime in its imposed war against Iran by providing them the required reports and information, "was no secret" pointed out the daily.

It said if these groups refer to their record of activities over the past eleven years they could find dark pages which they have written in return for a few pounds sterling or U.S. dollars, it added.

"The fate [which] befell Bazoft, and the attitude of Western media vis-a-vis the incident should be a cause for concern for those who are treading the same path," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI warned. Bazoft and British nurse Daphne Parish were arrested on charges of spying, but the former was sentenced to death and promptly executed, while his British colleague was given a 15 year imprisonment.

The reason, the article said, is that Bazoft was an Iranian-born who had cut himself off from his roots and tried to sought refuge in the apron of West. But his companion was a British subject.

Therefore, it stressed, for the Baghdad ruler killing of a British citizen would no doubt entail unpleasant consequences while slaying of Premier Margaret Thatcher's "adopted child" would apparently cause no problem.

The British media, after an initial fuss over the incident, are now publishing documents revealing Bazoft's imprisonment for bank robbery in 1981 and his murky past, thus justifying the Iraqi regime's measure, the article added. It advised those who are following Bazoft's path "to come to their senses and put down their pens before it gets too late."

Papers Disagree Over Resumption of UK Ties

LD1703115990 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 17, IRNA—The morning daily ABRAR in an inside page commentary Saturday criticised the last Thursday editorial of the English daily TEHRAN TIMES on resumption of political ties between Iran and Britain.

The Iranian Government and nation do not need to restore ties with Britain because the oppressive nature is unchangeable, said the Persian daily.

It added that it was the Iranian Government and not the British Government as stated by TEHRAN TIMES that broke up relations with Britain. Tehran severed ties with Britain after Majles voted in favour of the action, said the daily.

Experiences of Iran-Britain ties, British imperialism and colonialism are proof that neither Iran nor any other Third World nation, the Islamic countries in particular, have benefited from relations with London, it added.

The oppressive nature of the British Government would never change as the ruling system in that country is based on exploitation of oppressed nations of the Third World, said the daily.

Therefore, it added, even if London hands over Salman Rushdie, the author of the blasphemous novel THE SATANIC VERSES to Muslims, which is highly unlikely, its oppressive nature will remain the same. Meanwhile Iran's anti-imperialist campaign will not

Referring to the nation's call for complete rupturing of ties with London and boycotting of British goods, the commentary lashed out at TEHRAN TIMES for implying that resumption of ties with Britain was to Iran's interest.

ABRAR also criticized TEHRAN TIMES for stating that once London revised its stand on Salman Rushdie there would be no obstacles on the way of resumption of Tehran-London ties. "If Britain was to stop supporting Salman Rushdie it had not encouraged him to write the blasphemous novel at the first place," the daily said. [sentenced as received] It also reminded that the Iranian Muslim nation will never forget repeated support of British Government for the hostile measures of the U.S. against Iran. It asked what benefits would resumption of ties with Britain have for Iran and whether London will stop its oppressive measures.

Citing hostilities of Britain against the Islamic revolution of Iran the commentary cited publication of THE SATANIC VERSES and detention and expulsion of Iranian Muslim students and nationals as the latest examples.

Islamic Groups' Call for 'Confrontation' Viewed

NC1703203890 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Mar 90

[From the "Behind the News" program]

[Text] The statement issued by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine [IJLP] is the strongest reaction so far to Soviet Jewish immigration. This statement included a threat to attack airports and airline offices that assist in transporting Soviet Jews.

A spate of statements by Islamic groups has called for a stronger confrontation with the Zionist entity in light of the serious development represented by transporting Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. This transportation is intended to be a balancing factor to confront the intifadah.

The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan issued a statement in which it called on the Arab countries to abandon plans for peace and settlement with the Jewish entity and to embark instead on military action to confront Israel. The Muslim Brotherhood called for forming an armed people's army to liberate every inch of Palestine. It called for destroying the interests of the United States and those of other countries which support the Zionist entity. It also urged that Soviet interests be threatened.

This statement is part of the supportive campaign which Islamic forces are conducting to bolster the intifadah and to awaken public opinion to the dangers that threaten the intifadah and the Palestinian cause.

The continuing Palestinian popular jihad has exposed the fragility of the current Zionist structure. The present government crisis is proof of that. This crisis is a fruit of the intifadah which has led to the first collapse of a Zionist government through a Knesset no-confidence vote. It is a result which would not have taken place if the intifadah had not continued, causing embarrassment to the Zionist entity and bringing it to an impasse.

Commentary on 'Arafat Support for Emigration

NC1603153390 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Feb 90 p 9

[Commentary: "Moscow's Role in Transferring Soviet Jews"]

[Text] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful. In December when an agreement was signed between the Zionist regime's El Al airlines and the Soviet Union's Aeroflot, some political observers in the Middle East pointed out that this agreement was beyond ordinary relations between two airline companies.

This agreement adopts a special meaning when viewed within the context of the Zionists' efforts—under the shadow of Mr. Gorbachev's policy of glasnost—to establish open relations with the Kremlin and to end the political secrets that went on between the two for 23 years.

It is with the help of their relations with the Russians that the Zionists can transfer the dissident Jews living in the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine and thus to change the demographic picture of the area to the benefit of the Jews and the detriment of the Arabs. From the very moment the agreement between El Al and Aeroflot was signed, political circles around the world spoke about the determination of the Russians and the Zionists to transfer gradually the Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. Even though Moscow pretends to oppose the transfer of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories, this opposition is a mere facade and the Russians prefer to implement their plans gradually and calmly.

The exodus of hundreds of Soviet Jews on board an Aeroflot cruise ship which sailed through the Dardanelles in Turkey to Haifa during the past week, as well as the role played by the other shipping or air companies under the guise of tourism in transferring the Soviet Jews cannot have been without the knowledge and consent of Moscow. But under the current circumstances, the Kremlin does not consider it in its interests to confirm the indirect transfer.

The Zionists want to settle the 500,000 Soviet Jews in the Gaza Strip where the demographic picture is strongly against them and to the benefit of the Arabs who oppose Tel Aviv's racist policies. This decision is also very important to the Israelis as far as that part of world public opinion that does not recognize the Gaza Strip as an Israeli area but as the West Bank of the Jordan River and to belong to the Palestinians is concerned. [sentence as published]

The Zionists welcome any solution that can alter the demographic picture of the two areas to the detriment of the Arabs and that can impede the Palestinians' programs. It is precisely because of this that during the past few years the Zionists have captured groups of blacks from poverty-stricken Ethiopia with the help of Sudan's deposed Numayyri and took them to occupied Palestine and settled them in these very areas. Now it seems that the plot has assumed a completely organized nature.

It is again for this reason—that is, to upset the demographic picture of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank of Jordan to the detriment of the native Arab population—that high-ranking American officials overtly support the Zionist officials' decision to settle the Soviet Jews in these two areas and are encouraging the Kremlin to do so.

At any rate, the transfer of half a million Jews to occupied Palestine and settling them in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank of Jordan is a sinister and organized plot against the Muslim Palestinian nation. Meanwhile, the idiotic remarks by people who consider themselves the "guardians of the Palestinian nation" and whose actions are against the rights and aspirations of the Palestinians are regrettable.

Some reports indicate that when commenting on the incidents concerning the influx of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories, Yasir 'Arafat has supported their right to come and go and to settle in any place that they want to. It seems that 'Arafat has closed his eyes and ears to the depth of the wretched and ugly plan that the Zionists have hatched for the gradual extinction of the oppressed Palestinians from the lands of their forefathers. As the pain-filled history of the oppressed Palestinians illustrates, 'Arafat never acted sincerely toward the materialization of the right of the Palestinians to live in the land of their forefathers. It is still not clear how he dares to grant such rights to others—others who have been like gangrenous wounds on the body of the Palestinians for half a century now. As long as the right of the Palestinians to live on the land of their forefathers is not recognized, no one has the right to settle on a territory that belongs to the Palestinians, even if this right is recognized by a treacherous person like 'Arafat.

Yazdi Speaks to Reporters on Judiciary

LD1803122290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, spoke about the judiciary's record during the past six months and its future policy in a news conference this morning in the presence of domestic and foreign reporters.

Referring to the formation of new commissions connected with the judiciary's various departments, including the judicial deputy department [mo'avenat], the head of the judiciary said: In that deputy department a commission entitled the Commission for International Affairs has been established which has the duty of informing the world about the Islamic judicial system and of studying the world's common judicial systems.

He mentioned the use of judges outside office hours, the establishment of mobile courts, and the passing of special verdicts [sodur-e ahkam-e vizheh] as some of the judiciary's measures toward expediting dealing with and confronting offenders. The head of the judiciary also spoke about paying attention to the fundamentals of the judicial institution, the study of crime rates in various parts of the country, drawing up necessary regulations, and a bill for the establishment of public courts as some of the institution's future policies.

About current developments in the judiciary, he said: Contrary to the propaganda of public media which describe the developments as arising from factionalism [jenah-bandi] in the Islamic Republic and in Islamic law, one of the qualifications of a judge is to be just and if a judge enters into factionalism, he has abandoned justice. I will say without equivocation that the judiciary is independent of all factionalism.

On the state of the country's prisons Mr. Yazdi said: In view of the assistance given and the attention paid to the situation of prisoners, the issue of justice, health, clothing, and the living environment of the prisoners is being given greater attention.

In response to a question about the extensive propaganda of imperialist news media to the effect that there are no criteria for issuing and implementing death sentences in Iran, the head of the judiciary said: In Islam's judicial law, instances of execution are very rare and in Iran death sentences are issued after several stages and after careful examination.

In response to a foreign reporter's question about the preparedness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to allow the UN's human rights group to visit Iran, Mr. Yazdi said: We have previously announced and we announce it once again that they may come to Iran and study the country's judicial system and the state of human rights in Iran.

In connection with confronting economic terrorists, Mr. Yazdi said: We have no such law as a law for the execution of economic terrorists and it is the Majles which must pass an article or a law in that regard. We are currently acting on the basis of Article 49 and other ordinary laws. He also said in connection with the legal vacuum in issuing verdicts: We have no legal vacuum and we even have general regulations on the basis of which the judge can issue a verdict.

In response to a foreign reporter's question about the verdict [hokm] of the imam of the ummah about Salman Rushdie, Mr. Yazdi said: From the Islamic point of view, the verdict issued by his eminence the leader must be implemented and cannot be revised. The leader is the highest position in the country and his commands are matters for implementation and not matters of opinion or theory, and the imam's verdict about Salman Rushdie is just like a judge's and a judicial verdict. It is not an

opinion which may be changed because the verdict is unalterable and His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, too, has reaffirmed that verdict. It must be implemented. In response to a question about Roger Cooper's offense and the length of his sentence, the head of the judiciary said: His offence has been announced previously. It is espionage and he is serving his sentence.

At the end of the news conference, the head of the judiciary spoke about the fulfillment of that institution's manpower requirements, saying: The College of Judicial Science and the Qom seminary are sources which will provide the institution's manpower shortfall.

Musavi-Ardabili Prayers Sermon Discusses Ramadan

LD1603165290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1122 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, at Tehran University on 16 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] My second sermon is about worship in Islam, because of the forthcoming holy month of Ramadan and period of worship. [passage omitted] The issue of pilgrimage to Mecca is political and ideological, although its political aspect has been omitted. It has taken on a form outside Islamic worship, and it does not matter what they do there. [sentence as heard] However, when, thanks to the Islamic revolution, the issue of pilgrimage, which is purely one of worship, took its proper place, that is, it became an issue of political-ideological worship, they said it was not allowed. Saudi Arabia said: No, it cannot be done this way. If you want to walk around the Ka'bah, make the ritual walk to Mecca, and keep yourself pure by self-denial, making donations, wearing a white garment of purity, and abstaining from certain things, there is no objection. But if you want to say: Death to so and so, and long live so and so, you cannot. This is the home of Satan, it is run by the great Satan. It cannot be done here. [passage omitted]

Islamic dress. Women who wear Islamic dress do not offend public decency, do not change the status quo, do not invite sarcastic remarks, safeguard their honor, do not stray, they go to their father's house when it is time to have dinner or to break their fast, they engage in worship.

I warn those who think they can overlook these issues. Our revolution is 11 years old. Although Saudi Arabia's Islam is, in our opinion, American-style Islam, Saudi women still do not dare come out without a veil or drive cars. So many people were martyred. [sentence as heard] Can a woman not come out without makeup, or wear proper clothes? That sort of thing will definitely be dealt with. [crowd chants] Man's character, greatness, and integrity dictates that he should not expect to be beaten up to keep him on the straight and narrow. [passage omitted]

We must help other Islamic movements, as far as we can, without causing any difficulties. To heed the call of and to sympathize with those Muslims who are being maltreated in Palestine, Lebanon, Tunisia, Iraq, India, and other countries, is all Islamic worship.

In Caucasia the Muslims are free after 72 years of bondage. They have asked you, dear brothers and sisters, for help. They eagerly and enthusiastically want copies of the Koran, religious books, and to be taught Islamic ways. [passage omitted]

Strategic Studies Research Council Formed

LD1103095590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] The manifesto of the country's Institute of Strategic Studies composed to codify and regulate the strategies of the Islamic Republic of Iran—based on research and study in various fields—was approved by the president.

Stipulated in the center's organizational plan is the formation of a council known as the Research Council, to be chaired by the president, comprising the director and the assistant directors of the Institute of Strategic Studies as well as seven experts recommended by the director of the Institute and approved by the president. They will take up the responsibility of selecting the general policies drawn-up by the founder of the Islamic Republic and the honorable leader, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be admitted to paradise, and then to great leadership, to determine the research priorities.

Gas Pipeline Explodes in Tehran, Causes Fire

LD1803122390 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA—Explosion of a city gas pipeline in western part of the capital killed a number of people and injured scores of othes Sunday. The explosion, followed by massive fire, occurred in Jamalzadeh Avenue, west of Tehran, at 11:30 (08:00 GMT) hours local time. At least 10 cars were completely destroyed and 15 houses badly damaged in the incident.

Relief workers of the fire brigade, National Gas Company, Tehran emergency center and police rushed to the scene of the incident to help the victims. The injured were immediately transferred to the nearby hospital for treatment.

According to the latest report, reached at 13:00 (09:30 GMT) hours local time, efforts are underway to extinguish the fire caused by the explosion.

13 Killed, Many Injured

LD1803183990 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March, 18, IRNA—At least 13 people were killed and many wounded, some critically, when a blast occurred at a small underground gas distribution

chamber at Jamalzadeh Street in mid-west Tehran due to gas leakage around 11:30 hours local time Sunday.

Fire-fighters and relief workers are clearing the debris, and in view of the rush hours the casualty toll is expected to go up. The blast has left a large crater at the site of explosion.

Several cars parked near the explosion site immediately went up in flames and at least 15 houses and shops have been badly gutted.

Turkey's Relations With Mideast Countries Viewed

NC1303181490 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] During the meeting their economic delegations held in Jeddah last week, Turkey and Saudi Arabia agreed to increase their trade volume to $1 billion. This trade volume has totaled about $500 million thus far.

Turkey feels that it has been accorded less importance by the United States and the European countries after the political and economic changes in East Europe. Consequently, the Mideast countries, particularly the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region, are becoming more important to Turkey's economic relations. The recent visit of Turkish economic delegations to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain and the move made by a Turkish company to establish itself in Kuwait in order to construct that country's largest thermal power plant indicate that Turkey is inclined to strengthen its economic relations with Mideast countries. Turkish statesmen have realized that the multisided economic relations they will establish with Mideast countries will help Turkey achieve its development plan targets.

One of these targets is related to acquiring loans from Arab countries. It is common knowledge that the plans made for Turkey's economic development during the past few years have been based on foreign loans and foreign capital. Therefore, the wealthy Arab countries can be an important financial resource for Turkey. Another reason for Turkey's decision to strengthen its relations with the Arab countries is the Mideast market. The crowded Middle East can be an appropriate customer for Turkey's products. Because products manufactured in Turkey are of lesser quality, Turkey is unable to enter the European and U.S. markets.

Meanwhile, another reason for Turkey's decision to strengthen its relations with Mideast countries is the opportunity it will afford to send a number of its unemployed people to these countries. A large number of Turkish workers are currently employed in various countries, including the FRG. This state of affairs is creating several problems for the European countries in their relations with Turkey. In view of this, when the Turkish workers are pre
evented from entering European countries, the Arab states in the Persian Gulf region will provide suitable employment opportunities for Turkish workers.

Turkey may al
lso wish to secure the support of the Mideast countries in its dispute with Greece and concerning the Mu
slim Turks in Bulgaria.

On the other h
and, the Mideast countries also have a number of targets in mind. One of them is related to the water supply q
uestion. Many Mideast countries are still suffering from a water shortage, and it is believed that this state of aff
airs will continue for a long time. Meanwhile, it is ev
en believed that the water supply may create a possibl
e war in the Mideast. The abundant water resources in Tu
rkey may be one of the reasons why the Mideast countr
ries wish to establish relations with it.

Another reason
for the Mideast countries' inclination to strengthen thei
r relations with Turkey is Turkey's experience with agr
iculture. Particular attention has recently been focused o
n agriculture in a number of the Mideast countries. The
refore, as far as these countries are concerned, the ben
efit from Turkey's experience in agriculture cannot be
underestimated.

The Muslim p
opulation of Turkey and selling oil are other factors w
hich attract the attention of the Mideast countries.

In general, con
sidering the objectives of Turkey and the Mideast count
ries, the latter are expected to strengthen their economic
relations with Turkey in 1990. Observers believe that st
rengthening economic relations between Turkey and th
e Mideast countries will be in both their interests.

Commentary on Developments in Afghanistan, Asia

NC1403093090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0450 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Central News
s Unit Research Group's commentary]

[Excerpts] In t
the name of God. Asia witnessed continued political dev
elopments stemming from the world powers' polic
ies in 1368 [year ending 20 March 1990]. Despite the w
orld powers implementing the recognized policy of det
ente and regional countries also observing this policy, p
arts of south and southeast Asia continued to face crises
. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan
remained the unhealed wound of South Asia in 1368
. Even though more than a year has passed since the Sov
iet Army left Afghanistan, a political solution to this p
roblem is still far from reach.

With their r
are resistance, the Muslim Afghans were finally able
to end the nine-year occupation of their country and
to force the occupying forces to retreat, though not v
ery respectably. However this positive and historic dev
elopment—manifesting the defeat of the Soviet Unio
n's long-term political-military strategy and,

at the same time, impacting considerably on regional and world equations—was unable to direct politically the Muslim Afghans toward their right to self-determination and their right to form the government they want. Political observers studying Afghanistan believe this is because world powers intervened in this country's affairs and because the conflicting sides were armed.

The recent abortive coup in Afghanistan, which further clarified that long-lasting conflicts within the party exist, or more clearly, that there is antagonism in the political leadership of the Kabul regime, was also affected by these policies and by the superpowers' collusion. Even though this coup was defeated, it still shows that elements dependent on arrogance cannot be considered potential alternatives for Afghanistan's political future or for forming an independent and nonaligned Islamic country. More than a decade of experience shows those who intervene in Afghanistan's affairs that nothing can be achieved without the Muslim Afghan nation's firm determination.

Despite their wish to maintain detente in their relations, India and Pakistan continued in a state of neither war, peace, nor armed peace. This came when, in light of developments in the region and in the world, the new governments of the two countries—especially Pakistan—led by Singh and Bhutto, expressed their wish for normalization.

The intensifying Kashmir crisis, which culminated especially during recent months, not only put New Delhi and Islamabad on the threshhold of a military confrontation, but it also created a politically tense atmosphere in the extremely vulnerable relations between the two countries. This is at a time when the Indian Government's methods for crushing the popular and Islamic movement in Jammu and Kashmir and this region's resistance groups, coupled with political problems have made this main conflict between India and Pakistan more complicated. This conflict has existed since the independence of these two countries.

At a time when the situation in the Kashmir valley exacerbates more each day and the Kashmir incidents gain new dimensions, the central Indian Government has finally agreed to indirect talks with the militant Islamic organizations in Jammu and Kashmir. This is because, as the Indian statesmen confessed, the movement of Muslims in Kashmir is unprecedented.

Despite the recent developments in Jammu and Kashmir and in view of the ongoing violent and bloody clashes between the Indian security and Armed Forces and the Muslims in this region, it is doubtful that the Indian Government will resort to a political solution for the deep-rooted Kashmir problem.

The Cambodian crisis continued in 1368 despite improved relations between Beijing and Moscow. They are considered the main interested parties in this crisis, for which a political solution was expected. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

President, Bhutto Send Messages to Gorbachev

BK1803091190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto extended their warm felicitations to Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev on his election as president of the Soviet Union for a new term. In his message, the president said: This occasion is a truly historic landmark in the political evolution of USSR and constitutes a befitting tribute to your unique abilities of statesmanship. He expressed the hope that in the days ahead, the relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union will be further strengthened to their mutual advantage.

In her message to Mr. Gorbachev, the prime minister said: We in Pakistan are watching with keen interest and admiration the changes taking place in Soviet Union which [words indistinct] for the future well-being and prosperity of your people. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the democratic government of Pakistan is committed to further development of friendly relations with the Soviet Union, which would benefit our two people and serve the cause of peace and stability.

'High-Powered' Iraqi Delegation Arrives 15 Mar

BK1503112690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] An eight-member high-powered Iraqi delegation led by Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi arrived in Karachi today on a week-long visit to Pakistan. The delegation will explore the possibility of increasing Iraq's cooperation with Pakistan in the fields of shipbuilding, telecommunications, and railways.

On its arrival in Karachi, the delegation was received by Communications Minister Makhdoom Amin Fahim and others. During a brief talk at the airport, Makhdoon Amin Fahim referred to the existing friendly relations between Pakistan and Iraq and hoped the ties will grow stronger with the passage of time. The Iraqi delegation later visited the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works and saw its various sections.

Makes Arrival Statement

BK1703084090 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The Iraqi minister for communications, Mr. Hamzah al-Zubaydi, says his government intends to strengthen bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in all fields, especially in the fields of communications and the telecommunications sector. Talking to newsmen on his arrival in Islamabad this morning, he said he has already

discussed avenues of collaboration with the federal communications minister in Karachi and will also hold discussions with the commerce minister and officials concerned in Islamabad.

Iranian Armed Forces Chief Begins Visit 18 Mar

BK1903032490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Brigadier General Ali Shahbazi, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, arrived in Islamabad last evening. During his stay in Pakistan, the Iranian general will visit a number of military installations and formations and will conduct talks with high civil and military officials.

President Amends Ordinance Against Terrorism

BK1603044190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] The president has promulgated the Secession of Terrorist Activities Special Courts Amendment Ordinance 1990. It comes into force at once. The amended ordinance requires police to complete investigation and submit it for trial within 14 days. The special court may extend the period if a good reason existed for not completing the investigation and submitting the case within the specified time. Any default by the officer in charge of the police station, an investigating officer or a person required by law to do the task that delays the work will be held responsible for it. Such an act will be deemed gross disobedience of the special court and dealt with under the law. The special court will conduct the case daily and speedily decide it. It will not adjourn any trial unless necessary in the interest of justice and no adjournment however would be for more than two days.

Kashmir Leader Assails India's Rejection of Talks

BK1603163390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] The Azad Jammu and Kashmir president, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, has condemned the Indian refusal to accept Pakistan's offer for a dialogue on the Kashmir issue. He was addressing a public meeting at Fatehpur in Azad Kashmir on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the veteran Kashmiri leader, Ghazi-i-Kashmir [holy warrior of Kashmir] Sardar Fateh Mohammad Khan Saralvi. He said India has inducted fresh troops into occupied Kashmir to crush the freedom movement. But he expressed the confidence that the people of occupied Kashmir will frustrate every nefarious design of India.

Addressing the meeting, the Azad Kashmir prime minister, Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan said occupied Kashmir is an international issue concerning the fate of Kashmiris who are struggling for their recognized right to self-determination.

Sri Lanka

900 Tamils Flee Indian Refugee Camp; Search On

BK1903084890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0832 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Bhubaneswar, India, March 19 (AFP)—A major search was underway in eastern Orissa State Monday for some 800 Sri Lankan Tamils who escaped from a refugee camp, officials in this eastern Indian state capital said.

The resettlement of Sri Lankan Tamils, who are fleeing the wrath of rival Tamil militants in the island Republic, has turned into a crisis with the hosts having second thoughts, the officials said.

Those who escaped Saturday from the Malkangunj Camp in coastal Koraput District, some 230 kilometers (143 miles) west of here, were believed to be activists of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), they said.

About 2,000 paramilitary troops have joined the search in the sprawling nearby jungle regions for the escapees, 15 of whom were recaptured with weapons, officials said.

Chief Minister Biju Patnaik said he was surprised by the refugees' action and had asked for military reinforcements from New Delhi, which had allocated six million rupees (352,000 dollars) for Tamil refugee resettlement in Orissa.

"We never imagined our efforts to resettle the Tamil refugees would put us in such a crisis," Mr. Patnaik said in an interview. He had earlier said his doors were always open to those without a home.

The chief minister took in the refugees despite protests by minority tribespeople, who argued that welfare funds meant for them were being diverted for the upkeep of Tamils.

Last week, Mr. Patnaik welcomed some 1,600 refugees who had been turned away by the government of neighbouring Tamil Nadu, which had maintained that there were Tamil guerrillas among them. The refugees were ferried in two Indian Navy chartered vessels.

Authorities in Orissa have expressed concern that the presence of guerrillas among the refugees would turn the state into a base for militant activity, as well as a source of support the illegal left-wing Naxalite militants.

Rebel Sri Lankan groups which are fleeing attacks from the dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), have been demanding to be sent to India's southern states, where Tamils are concentrated.

An Orissa official, Sunanda Patra, said they expected the rebels to take to the jungles and later slip into Tamil Nadu, where they had been maintaining offices.

The Tamil Nadu Government of Mr. M. Karunanidhi has already been alerted.

The refugees escaped from the camp when security was slack on Saturday afternoon and there was no violence. Tension was high between the local tribals and the remaining refugees, officials said.

Political analysts here said more Sri Lankan Tamils were expected to arrive in India, as Indian troops were set to withdraw from Sri Lanka by the weekend.

Tamil groups and civilians who either collaborated or supported Indian troops were being hounded by the LTTE activists, who virtually control the island's northeast where Sri Lanka's minority Tamils are concentrated, reports said.

AFP on Extent of Tamil Control of Republic

BK1803045090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0402 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Colombo, March 18 (AFP)—Almost two-and-a-half years after they took on the Indian Army, Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil group has emerged as virtual master of nearly one-third of this strife-hit island nation. Today, according to some analysts, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) calls the shots across the Tamil-majority northeast where its guerrillas fought a bloody bush war against Indian troops beginning October 1987.

It is all over now, having claimed the lives of more than 1,100 Indian soldiers and many more guerrillas and civilians, and leaving thousands wounded. The Indians are now all set to hand over the region, which they controlled from their first deployment in July 1987, to a group of diehard militants whom they sought to crush.

Analysts say the LTTE is now at its peak strength since it was formed in June 1975 to create an independent Tamil homeland called Eelam constituting Sri Lanka's north and east, or nearly one-third of the country.

"They are having some kind of control everywhere in the northeast," said Ceguze Isadeen, chairman of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC), echoing views expressed by several others including those with contacts in the province. He accused the LTTE cadres of roaming the streets of the vast region, brandishing their weapons, threatening the police, carrying out kidnappings for ransom and levying illegal "taxes."

The LTTE has denied committing abductions and extortions. But its chief spokesman here, Anton Balasingham, could not be reached for his reaction to the SLMC's other charges.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the main opposition party, said this month: "(The LTTE has) virtually take over, by the force of arms, the administration of the north and east." It added: "The government has taken no action whatsoever to put an end to this unbelievable situation."

Across the northeast, armed LTTE cadres prowl the streets under the cloak of a political respectability which they achieved since their leaders launched peace talks with Colombo dramatically last April. Most are armed with their favourite AK-47 rifles, but some also carry light machine guns, rocket launchers, pistols and grenades.

Tamil sources say that the guerrillas often check buses and trains streaming into the northeast to spot members of rival groups or those with arms.

Newspapers here speak of large-scale "tax" collections—a legacy of the Tamil struggle—by the LTTE from the transport sector, business, agriculture, trade and salaried class throughout the Tamil areas. LTTE militants—many in their teens—are also said to issue "tax" receipts, keeping counterfoils with themselves. The "taxes" reportedly run into thousands of Sri Lankan rupees every month.

Occasionally, the LTTE is also known to issue diktats. Recently, it reportedly banned illicit brewing and felling of timber in eastern Trincomalee District. Since the LTTE's ruthlessness is known, its orders are obeyed religiously.

"If all this is not virtually controlling the area, then what is it?" asked Sam Thambimuttu, a vocal MP [member of Parliament] from Sri Lanka's east and a member of the anti-LTTE Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF).

Before India and Sri Lanka signed a pact in July 1987 to end Tamil separatism under which India deployed troops in the island, the LTTE controlled only the northern Jaffna Peninsula. Today, with its expanded clout, the LTTE has let the police go about patrolling only in some areas. Last week, its guerrillas objected to the police blocking a road in eastern Kalmunai, almost sparking off a gunbattle.

But Tamils who travel to the island's northern Jaffna Peninsula, a traditional LTTE stronghold, say that the "Tigers"—as its cadres are called—are a disciplined lot.

"As long as you go about with your work peacefully, they don't bother you," said a Jaffna resident. "But if you do any nonsense, you have had it."

In Jaffna, one can see dozens of LTTE flags—a snarling tiger crisscrossed by two rifles in yellow in red background. Sri Lankan national flags are rare.

Most Sri Lankan Tamils, however, seem to still have their fingers crossed. Said the Jaffna man: "We all know that all hell will break loose if the (peace) talks between Colombo and the Tigers collapse. Many of us know that the Tigers are preparing for such an eventuality."